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L I F E
OF
MAJOR GENERAL
Z A C H A R Y T A Y L O R ;

WITH AN ACCOUNT

OF HIS

B R I L L I A N T A C H I E V E M E N T S

ON THE

RIO GRANDE AND ELSEWHERE,

INCLUDING

THE DEFENCE OF FORT HARRISON AND THE BATTLE
OF OKEE-CHO-BEE.

ALSO

S K E T C H E S O F T H E L I V E S A N D H E R O I C A C T S

O F

MAJ. RINGGOLD, MAJ. BROWN, COL. CROSS, CAPT.
MONTGOMERY, CAPT. MAY, CAPT. WALKER,
LIEUTS. RIDGELEY, BLAKE, JORDAN, ETC.

B Y

C. FRANK POWELL.

I L L U S T R A T E D W I T H A P O R T R A I T O F G E N E R A L T A Y L O R .

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Author's Preface.

The author of this simple history being a relation of facts well known to many persons of the highest respectability living in the County of Suffolk, it is hoped that an instructive lesson may be conveyed by it to many, who may not have seen the account of early and courageous extraction. The pages will prove, in a remarkable degree, that, however great it may be the moral endowments of mankind in mind, yet, without the culture of religious principles, and the constant exercise of the Holy Spirit, they will never realize their possessory or transient happiness of possession, but will be as like to the dragon as ones to God's Virtues. It will be seen that from the wild days of the early impressions of religion, in the heroine of these pages, fell into a series of temporal distresses which led to the violation of the laws of God and man; but that after the inundation of Christian faith and virtue, she became conspicuous for the success of her reformation and for a exemplary life; that though pleased to give her "a place of repose," yet it was through such latter sorrows and sufferings of a earthly body as she intended, that others might be spared. The public may depend upon the truth of the main features of this narrative; indeed, most of the facts recorded were matters of public notoriety at the time of their occurrence. The author who here prints the name is a son of the lady with whom this extraordinary female lived, and from whose hands he received all the letters and the facts here given. It is presumed that all will be found in the history of Margaret Catchpole highly worthy of praise and imitation; and if that which is unworthy shall only be taken as a warning example, humbly hope that the public will be both gratified and benefitted by the publication.

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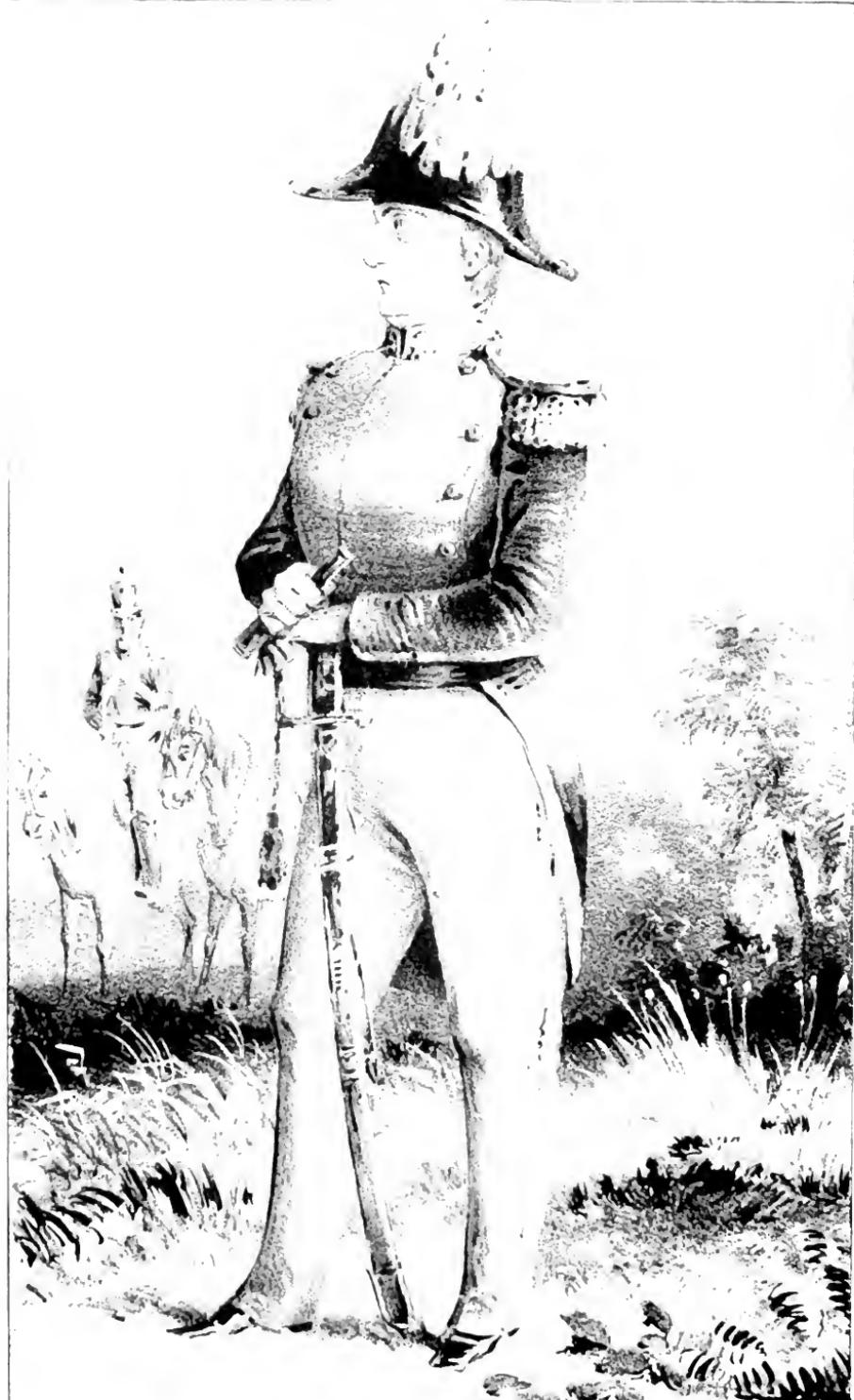
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GEORGE L. FOX.

NEW YORK: C. L. COOK, 1868.

31.

L I F E
OF
MAJOR-GENERAL
ZACHARY TAYLOR;
WITH AN ACCOUNT OF HIS
BRILLIANT ACHIEVEMENTS ON THE RIO GRANDE.
AND ELSEWHERE ;
INCLUDING HIS DEFENCE OF FORT HARRISON, AND
BATTLE OF OKEE-CHO-BEE.
WITH
SKETCHES OF THE LIVES AND HEROIC ACTS
OF
MAJOR RINGGOLD, COLONEL CROSS, MAJOR BROWN, CAPTAIN MONT-
GOMERY, CAPTAIN MAY, LIEUT. RIDGLEY, LIEUT. BLAKE,
CAPT. WALKER, LIEUT. JORDAN, CAPT. LOWD,
AND OTHERS ; ALSO,
A LIST OF NAMES OF OFFICERS FROM NEW YORK STATE
ENGAGED IN THE DEFENCE OF FORT BROWN, AND IN THE ACTIONS
OF THE 8TH AND 9TH OF MAY.

WITH PORTRAIT OF GENERAL TAYLOR.

BY C. FRANK POWELL,
AUTHOR OF "DHOONDIAH," ETC.

NEW YORK :
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P R E F A C E.

THE author of the “Life and Times of Louis Philippe,” says in his preface, “The desire that is implanted in the human breast, of approaching those who have filled distinguished parts in the theatre of human action—those who have secured the highest pedestals in the pantheon of political fame—those who have acquired a memorable name by the exercise of personal authority over a large portion of their fellow-creatures, will forever give to biography a high moral influence, and an interest superior to any that general history can excite. Time intervenes to remove us from a familiar intercourse with the greatest characters—space also produces a similar separation, but, the evil of both cases has found its remedy in the truthful and laborious productions of impartial writers.”

These remarks are applicable to the biography before us, the latter being representative of the career and actions of an individual who has occupied a large space in his country’s history and affections, and which actions should form an interesting and useful portion of our political knowledge. Neither can we imagine a task that partakes more of the nature of a duty than that of commemorating, in a substantial form, the services rendered by an individual to his country, especially when those services are of a marked and valuable character;

both for the incentive, which is the effect of example, and as an act of justice.

As it has been our aim to give a truthful presentation of all important matters connected with the career of the distinguished subject of these pages, so has it been our endeavor to do justice to all concerned in the events of which they treat.

The sources from which the material is drawn are authentic, and we are not conscious that partiality or predilection has exercised an influence in its authorship or compilation. As the object has been to make it a national work, and one of permanency, no class or party has been favored at the expense of another.

C. F. P.

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LIFE OF GENERAL TAYLOR.

CHAPTER I.

Nativity of General Taylor.—Education.—His Youth.—Qualities of Mind, etc.—Physical Powers.—Joins the Army.—Promoted.—Heroic Defence of Fort Harrison.—Promoted.—In Florida.—Battle of Okee-cho-bee.—Placed at Head of Army in Florida.—Resigns.—Takes Command of Second Department.

THE subject of this sketch has been distinguished in his profession as an officer in the United States Army for more than thirty years; but recently circumstances have ushered him most brilliantly, and with overwhelming triumph, before the American people. Thirty-four years ago his military talents were put to the test on a fearful and trying occasion, when assailed by wild savages in numbers twenty times his own, and were found to be of a superior order and adequate to the emergency requiring almost superhuman abilities. Again his valor and military genius exhibited themselves in a bold and difficult achievement, executed with a great disparity of force and inferior advantages of position, and they redounded to his own honor and the glory of his country. But what shall be the measure of commendation, the meed of gratitude, or limit of wonder and admiration to be rendered for the glorious and unparalleled triumphs of our arms on the Rio Grande through the guidance of the same master spirit?

ZACHARY TAYLOR was born in Orange county, Virginia, in 1790. He is son of Colonel Richard Taylor, who emigrated from Virginia about 1792, and settled near Louisville. His father was a man of good parts, and held several responsible stations under government. Zachary, together with his elder brother, Hancock, received the rudiments of his education from a private tutor, named

Elisha Ayres, a native of Connecticut, and a man of exemplary habits, sterling moral character, and peculiarly well calculated to instruct the juvenile mind, and mould it for future usefulness. He received Zachary under his charge at the age of six years, and at that time Colonel Richard was collector of the port of Louisville. Mr. Ayres is still living, upwards of seventy years of age, and resides in his native town of Preston, in the vicinity of Norwich, Connecticut. He takes pleasure in recounting anecdotes of Colonel Richard and his family, and particularly of Zachary, as he still calls him.

He represents his former pupil to have been a bright scholar, possessing an active and inquisitive mind, studious in his habits, though of sanguine temperament, apt, yet having depth, and promising most fair for a career of usefulness in the walks of life. He had mental qualities of judgment, contemplativeness, stability, and shrewdness not often found in youth, and far above his years. But a peculiar trait was firmness, not always attendant on an ardent temperament, and which, in such a connection, has been found to be an important characteristic in the soldier. Sudden and warm impulses produce grand achievements when occasion offers, and when properly directed by the concomitants of judgment and firmness; and though bravery may exist in an eminent degree, a phlegmatic temperament is calculated to restrain the exercise of it at a time when it might lead to glorious results. No one can be an adventuring and brilliant soldier without enthusiasm in his love of country and patriotism, and to which a predisposition to indolence, particularly of mind, is discouraging. Though we are no eulogist of juvenile precocity, we think we perceive in these traits, as represented, the budding of a character which has been developed to the honor of our arms and credit of the republic.

Anecdotes of the subject of this brief memoir are related, one of which, regarding his physical energies as well as love of excitement, is his having swum across the Ohio river at Louisville—a feat, though almost incredible, yet well attested to. His life has ever been an active one, and in youth he mingled much with the sports and amusements of the time, exercised his bodily powers in performing feats of strength and difficulty, the accomplishment of

which would often excite the wonder and applause of friends and rivalry of others. It is related that, in his youthful days, he manifested a great fondness for every thing connected with military, and looked forward, with great anxiety, to the day when he should become a soldier, or belong, in some capacity, to the army. With this view, even before he commenced a course of rigid tactical instruction, he might be seen alone, or with his comrades, practising the different evolutions of a company drill with as much gravity and emulation as though under orders before an enemy, or going through the manual exercise with the *sang froid* of an accomplished 'fugleman.'

At the age of eighteen he entered the United States Army, as a lieutenant in the seventh regiment of infantry, immediately after the British attack upon the frigate Chesapeake, and remained at different posts in the west until the commencement, and through the war of 1812. He was promoted to the rank of captain previous to the breaking out of hostilities, and was engaged in active service under Governor Shelby in his native state, or in Indiana, against the Indians that were constantly committing depredations on our infant settlements, and spreading death and destruction through this part of the country.

In the latter part of 1812, Captain Taylor was invested with the command of Fort Harrison, in Indiana, a small, not strongly defended fort, and situated in the heart of a country inhabited by the Miamis, or Weas, and other hostile savages. In September of that year a fierce attack was made on the fort by a large body of the Prophet's party. The principal defences consisted of an upper and lower blockhouse, and a fort with two bastions; but at this time not more than twenty effective men could be mustered in the garrison, the rest being sick, convalescent, or disabled, and of these, in the crisis that tried the soul of the commander, two of the stoutest jumped the pickets and deserted. The details of this sanguinary assault and valiant defence are given in a subsequent chapter.

The bravery, skill, and shrewdness displayed by Captain Taylor while in command of this post inspired his comrades and his country with confidence in his superior abilities as an officer. The

defence he made, to which we have alluded, under the trying difficulties of fire, a savage foe, and desertion, was sufficient to establish his reputation as an officer and soldier of the most sterling qualities. Major-general Hopkins, in his dispatch to Governor Shelby, says : " *The firm and almost unparalleled defence of Fort Harrison by Captain Z. Taylor has raised for him a fabric of character not to be effaced by my eulogy.*"

For Captain Taylor's gallantry on this occasion, President Madison conferred upon him the rank of *major* by brevet, and this is said to be the *oldest brevet* in the army.

Not long subsequent to this, Major Taylor went on an expedition against the Prophet's town and the Winnebago town, under General Hopkins. These, together with a Kickapoo village on Ponse Passu creek, were destroyed. Major Taylor was very active in these operations, and in commanding the officers in his dispatch, General Hopkins says: " And also to Captain Z. Taylor, of the 7th United States regiment, for a prompt and efficient support in every instance."

After the close of the war, Major Taylor shifted his position, but remained in the west the greater portion of the time for several years, removing from post to post as the interest of the service called him. When the war in Florida broke out, he was called thither. In the mean time he had been promoted to the rank of colonel. He was at the head of the first brigade, quartered at Fort Gardner, south of the Withlacochee, when he proceeded against the Seminoles and Micasukies, under Alligator and Sam Jones, and had the desperate struggle with these forces at Okee-cho-bee. The particulars of this battle will also be found in these pages.

Colonel Taylor had received a challenge from the Seminole chief, Alligator, to come on, which the colonel accepted instanter. The Indians had selected a strong position, in a thick swamp, covered in front by a small stream, whose quicksands rendered it almost impassable. A breastwork, composed of the growth of a hummock, thickly interwoven, concealed and partly protected the Indians in front, their flanks being secured by impassable swamps. Sam Jones and Coa-coo-chee were behind these barriers with

Alligator and seven hundred of their tribes, true marksmen, every man.

Colonel Taylor approached them with about five hundred men, regulars and Missouri volunteers, under Colonel Gentry. They passed the stream, sinking to their middle in mire, mounted the breastwork, and fought hand to hand, the Indians disputing every inch of ground. After a most sanguinary engagement of three hours, the enemy was driven from his post, and Colonel Taylor gained a most complete and brilliant victory.

The loss, however, on both sides was great. The gallant Colonels Gentry and Thompson, Captain Van Swearingen, and Lieutenants Carter and Brook, fell at the heads of their command. During the whole engagement Colonel Taylor remained on horseback, passing from point to point, cheering his men to the conflict, and exposed to the Indian rifle at every moment.

For this achievement the president conferred on Colonel Taylor the brevet rank of brigadier-general.

General Taylor represented this as "the most trying scene of his life;" but he was destined to encounter one equally hazardous on the Rio Grande, and from which he emerged, if possible, with greater honor to his name.

General Taylor now established himself at Fort Basenger, on the Kissimmee. He had now been transferred to the first infantry, and it becoming necessary to establish posts about Tampa Bay and along the eastern coast, Mr. Poinsett, then Secretary of War, recommended to Major-general Jessup that General Taylor be placed in command of them.

In the fore part of 1839 Major-general Jessup was ordered to the seat of government to resume the duties of Quartermaster-general, and the command of the army in Florida was given to General Taylor. In the mean time peace had been proclaimed, and the duties of the commander were far from being onerous; he was relieved in 1840 by Brigadier-general Armistead, after four years at least of indefatigable service in the swamps and hummocks of that unhealthy country.

General Taylor was next assigned the command of the second department, which was in the year following, and repaired to his

head-quarters at Fort Gibson, on the Arkansas. On his way, he was offered a public dinner at Little Rock, by the citizens of that place, as a token of esteem for his "meritorious services in Florida," but declined on account of haste to assume command. The first department of the army, including the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, &c., was next given to his command, and he repaired to Fort Jessup, where the order to assume command of the "Army of Observation" reached him.

CHAPTER II.

General Taylor called to Texas.—Object of the Expedition.—The Policy.—General Taylor's Position.—Innuendo repelled—General Taylor's grand Plan.—Its consummation.—General Survey of the Ground.—Critical Extract.

WE have thus briefly hinted at some of the leading events in the life of this accomplished and successful general, up to the period he was called to the command of our forces about to proceed to Texas, a more minute detail of which appears in the regular order of the narrative. The object of this expedition, it is well known, was to invest that territory lying between the Rio Nueces and the Rio Grande or Bravo del Norte, a tract of land claimed to belong to Texas, and by the articles of annexation made over to the United States. We shall not make it our province to question the policy of taking forcible possession of a territory known to be held in dispute by two free and independent republics; but nothing is clearer than that the commander of the American forces but complied with implicit instructions of the Department, which were his guarantee and justification.

We cannot say that neutrality would have been preserved had possession not been taken, and it would seem that the acquisition of the republic—but in equal part interested in the dispute—by a third power did not change the position of affairs, or authorize such power to invest the territory. Be this as it may, however, on the 28th of March, 1846, the United States army took up its quarters opposite Matamoras, and planted the United States flag in the ancient department of Tamaulipas.

The position which General Taylor selected is adjudged to be the most favorable. His force, there can be no doubt, was entirely inadequate to the position which he assumed; censure cannot find a resting place, however, on the commander-in-chief for this error, if so it was. As a fearless and ready soldier, he repaired to the place assigned him, with the means furnished to his hands. If there was an error in judgment, in the department, it became too late to repair it by the commander, if he felt so disposed, when his

observation led him to perceive it. It was also entirely problematical, whether the Mexicans would take upon themselves the office of ejecting our troops from the soil thus invested; but, more than this, the probabilities were that they would not. These probabilities amounted to nearly certainty, judging from the unstable state of the government of that republic, their civil dissensions, and the dispersed and disaffected state of their troops; and no doubt had their influence with the department in determining the amount of force to be sent.

Still, the assuming a hostile position—for such it is fair to term it, since it was not proposed to preserve neutrality simply, and one portion of those interested and engaged in the dispute of the soil were not only admitted, but took active part in the occupation—without the presence of a sufficient force to maintain it in any *conceivable emergency*, seems to us an *oversight*, to say the least, that might have resulted in dishonor to our arms. What then do we owe to the commander and those valorous spirits who fought their way, hand to hand, against an opposing force double their number, through a dilemma of an appalling nature in which they had been involved, to a brilliant and triumphant victory!

A writer remarks of General Taylor, in allusion to the subject—“If he erred in his estimate of the forces which the Mexicans could bring to assault the position which government had ordered him to take upon the Rio Bravo, and if, owing to that error, he allowed the army under his command to be placed in great peril, as well as his munitions, provisions, and his line of intercourse with the ultimate resources on which the army was to rely,—if General Taylor allowed all these to be placed in great peril, it at least afforded him an opportunity of exercising and exhibiting the highest military genius in extricating himself from all those difficulties.”

The hypothesis conveyed above, as furnishing evidence of a want of foresight in the American commander, as well as ground for innuendo or oblique censure, (we think unmeant,) is entirely imaginary. General Taylor was well informed as to the amount of Mexican force on the frontier when he arrived there, a large portion of which had previously advanced to meet him headed by General Mejia, the commander at Matamoras; and which force was esti-

mated at about two thousand soldiers and five hundred rancheros, under Mejia, Garcia, La Vega, and Laveriego. Upon arriving at Point Isabel, General Taylor set about establishing permanent defences for the protection of his stores, proceeded to the site opposite Matamoras, which he designated for the head-quarters of the army, and placed nearly two-thirds of his army at once in erecting fortifications, and constructing means of defence, not for present emergency, but with the view of rendering his position impregnable against an *anticipated* force far more formidable. The expedition with which he prosecuted this labor, the permanent character of the work, at least the effort used with the facilities to give it this character, and the care manifested in the disposition of the brigades, speak as to the presentiments of the commanding general.

At length, in twelve days after his reaching this point, the expected force arrived. General Arista entered Matamoras with two hundred cavalry, leaving an army of from two to three thousand behind him, soon to arrive. Was General Taylor alarmed? There is no evidence of it. Did he call for volunteers at that moment? By no means. Could he have "erred"—quoting from the above paragraph—"in his estimate of the forces which the Mexicans could bring to assault his position?" It seems he did not. He states in his communication of the 15th of April, that Ampudia's force, soon expected to Matamoras, was variously estimated at from two to three thousand, besides the two hundred cavalry he had with him. This estimate, compared with subsequent accounts, and the known number of Arista's command—that general having assumed the place of Ampudia—at Palo Alto, is found to have been nearly correct.

General Taylor, then, was aware of the force to be brought against him, and looked calmly on, because he felt *secure* in his position. The following few lines from his dispatch to the department, sets the matter on this point at rest.

"Notwithstanding the alternative of war presented by Ampudia"—this general had, upon his arrival at Matamoras to take command, notified the American commander to withdraw within twenty-four hours with his forces, and retire beyond the Nueces—"no hostile

movement has yet been made by his force. Whether he will feel strong enough to attempt any thing when all his force shall arrive, is very doubtful. Our brigades occupy strong positions, beyond reach of the fire from town, *and can hold themselves against many times their number of Mexican troops.* *In the mean time our defences here and at Point Isabel are daily gaining strength.* The latter point is well supplied with artillery, and is in a good condition to resist attack."

No alarm is manifested here, no volunteers are called for or aid demanded; yet this is four days after the arrival of Ampudia, and three subsequent to the menacing notice of that general. The same dispatch, however, contains the following: "I shall authorize the raising of two companies of Texan mounted men for service in this quarter, particularly for the purpose of keeping open our communication with Point Isabel, and relieving the regular cavalry of a portion of their duties, which are now oppressive."

We have taken some pains to reply, though briefly, to the *constructive* imputation conveyed in the paragraph we have quoted, which represents General Taylor as having "*allowed* the army under his command to be placed in great peril," the more as that article appears as original in the most valuable register in this country. Now take a broad glance of all matters connected with the management of the "*Army of Occupation,*" the present designation, and see whether a perfect system for maintaining the honor of our arms is not manifest, the operations of which have led to the happiest and most glorious results. The commanding general finds himself at Corpus Christi with two regiments of infantry and the second dragoons; and on the border of the enemy's country, with a force that cannot be immediately increased. He hears of an opposing force, *certainly* much larger than his own, meditating an attack. He surveys his ground, his resources, his position with regard to his stores, and the general alternative to which he is driven. *Two points must be defended.* The probably first movement of the enemy will be to intercept the communication between his depot of stores and camp, and the capture of the first-named. His works opposite Matamoras are completed, and so constructed that five hundred men will maintain them against the direction of

even the whole of the opposing force. He can withdraw with the balance of his army, about two thousand two hundred men, repair to Point Isabel, and maintain that post against an attack, or return with munitions and supplies, which were greatly needed in camp. A portion of the enemy's force must necessarily be employed in reducing Fort Brown, while the balance might be attacked by General Taylor in person, if concentrated at Point Isabel, or interposed between the two points.

He sets out according to his plan, leaving Major Brown with five or six hundred men to defend the works. He meets with no opposition on the route. As predicted, the bombardment of the fort commenced upon its being ascertained by the enemy that the principal part of the American force had left. General Taylor arrives at Point Isabel, where he remains until satisfied that no attack on that post is meditated, learning, in the mean time, that all is safe at Fort Brown, then commences his return with his munitions and stores. He meets the enemy in large numbers, fairly engages with them, comes out victorious in two sanguinary battles, drives him from the soil across the Rio Grande, and his army receives their supplies, and the intercourse with the depot is amply secured.

Who can imagine a more beautiful working of a grand system, a magnificent plan?—more glorious results, even with superior advantages, much less in an emergency? Here was displayed the highest military genius, and the hero of Palo Alto and Reseca de la Palma has conferred on his country an obligation that time should scarcely efface. “So far as we have been able to distinguish and have capacity to judge,” says a writer, speaking of these events, and whose views vary slightly from our own, “no officer, placed under the circumstances in which he found himself, could have acted with more coolness, prudence, or courage than General Taylor displayed upon this occasion. Not so fastidious of his own reputation as to endanger the safety and comfort of his command for one moment unnecessarily by concealing the danger to which he found them exposed, or rashly to risk the issue of a now very doubtful contest to those forces which had heretofore been considered ample for the occasion, he very prudently summoned the neighboring states to his assistance, apprizing fully of the necessity

of prompt movement, and yet, while wisely providing for contingencies, his own measures were taken as though no dependence was to be placed upon such assistance arriving in time, as in fact it did not, to save him from having so large odds to contend with. If there be one plume which General Taylor has won in this affair which is entitled to more commendation than all others, it was this proof of the highest qualifications for a commander, to which we have just alluded.

"It is gratifying, however, to him and his countrymen that his own resources were found sufficient for the occasion. To him it must be gratifying, because, if honors were to be won, 'the Army of Occupation,' men and officers, were fairly entitled to the honor of winning and wearing them; and it is truly gratifying to his countrymen to observe and acknowledge how gallantly they have won, and how gracefully they wear those honors."

CHAPTER III.

General Taylor continued.—Critical examination of the Battles of the 8th and 9th May.—The Light Artillery Arm.—Investigation of the Causes of these Victories.—Demonstrations of Approbation.—President confers a Brevet.—Resolutions and Sword of Louisiana and Tennessee.—Thanks of Congress.—General Taylor's Talents as a Military Man and General.—Qualities of Heart.—Personal Appearance.—Rough and Ready.—His Dress.—Characteristic Anecdote.—Political Opinions.—Habits, etc.

THE details of the battles on the Rio Grande will be found in another place, and we had intended the reader of this edition should be left to analyze them, and form his own opinion as to the magnitude of the victories. But finding a critical examination at hand, and so exactly suited to our mind, we cannot refrain from giving it almost entire in these pages; the more especially as from its appearing originally in the Courier and Enquirer newspaper, we should presume it penned by Colonel Webb himself, which places its authority and value beyond question. It assumes the stand that these victories are unparalleled, and that record furnishes no instances of such glorious achievements under similar circumstances. We have never seen the critical examination to which the writer alludes.

The writer of this paper, after quoting the concluding portions of General Taylor's reports of the two battles, wherein the general states the amount of his own and the enemy's force and loss in killed and wounded, says :

“We have made the above extracts, with a view of examining somewhat more critically, the gallant affairs of the 8th and 9th of May, to demonstrate the leading cause of those extraordinary victories, and to sustain the position we assumed immediately after the receipt of the intelligence of these battles, that they were the most gallant affairs on record, and that in modern times, never had such victories been obtained by any army opposed to such fearful odds—both armies consisting of disciplined troops ! We did not put forth this declaration without reflection ; it has frequently been the subject of discussion ; it has drawn forth criticism and a critical exam-

ination; and we still contend that it is not only strictly accurate, but that even those most disposed to underrate the services of our little army, cannot gainsay it.

"General Taylor, in his peculiarly modest manner, says—'It is probable six thousand men were opposed to us, [1700,] and in a position selected by themselves, and strongly defended with artillery.' The whole tenor of the general's dispatches, proves an anxious desire not to overrate the numbers opposed to him or the character of his victories; and the concurrent testimony of the officers of both armies, leaves no question that on the 9th of May, the enemy had actually engaged, upwards of seven thousand troops, or more than *four times* the number opposed to them; and it is equally certain, that their loss greatly exceeded in killed, wounded, and missing, one thousand. General Taylor accounts for four hundred buried by our troops in the two actions; and Colonel Twiggs, in a letter now before us, says, 'we find in the hospitals at Matamoras three hundred and eighty-two wounded soldiers and several officers, and very many wounded accompanied the retreating army.' This, it must be borne in mind, was on the 18th of May—nine days after the battle; and an officer writes that the number buried at Matamoras between the 9th and 18th must have been several hundred. Our conviction is, that in the two engagements the enemy's loss was nearer *two* than *one* thousand; and this fact is very material, as demonstrating the character of the Mexican troops, and proving that an army seldom fought better. They did not retreat on the night of the 8th, nor even on the 9th, until at least *one-seventh* of their whole army had been either killed or wounded; or, in other words, until our army had rendered *hors du combat* a number exceeding one-half of our whole army.

"These facts prove that the Mexicans fought bravely. It is admitted on all hands, that they were admirably disciplined, the flower of the Mexican army—and composed of officers and men who had been engaged in battle after battle, and had nobly earned for themselves the title of *veterans*. This army, commanded, as has been said, by one of the most gallant and accomplished artillery officers of the age, (Arista,) selected its position, and arranged at leisure its line of defence, composed of three batteries of artillery supported

by five thousand infantry and two thousand cavalry—whose boast is, that they are the best cavalry in the world ; and that they are brave, daring, and the best horsemen on the continent, is fully admitted. Thus posted, this army is assailed by the American army only *one-fourth* as strong. General Taylor reports that its artillery, with the exception of Ringgold's and Duncan's eight pieces of light artillery, was parked with his immense baggage train and provisions a great distance in the rear, and was only employed in pursuing the enemy after he had been completely routed. Thus then, the naked fact is presented to the consideration of the country, that our army attacked the Mexicans ‘strongly posted in a position selected by themselves.’ The forces thus posted and assailed, were composed of veterans, disciplined troops, *four times* as numerous as their assailants, with a heavier train of artillery, and nearly five times as many cavalry ! They fought bravely for three hours ; lost *one-seventh* of their whole number ; and then were literally dispersed by the *bayonets* of our troops—throwing their muskets at our men in the spirit of desperation, and swearing that they were devils incarnate !

“ Such was the battle of Resaca de la Palma, and such, too, was that of Palo Alto on the day preceding it. To judge of this achievement and compare it with European battles, we need only ask ourselves, on what occasion have eighty thousand disciplined troops strongly posted, in position selected by themselves, been driven from that position, routed and cut to pieces, by twenty thousand ? When and where, did any army thus conquer, rout and completely disperse, *four times its number* of brave and disciplined troops, who fought in a manner which, under ordinary circumstances, entitled them to victory ? When such affairs can be found in modern history, we will yield to them the palm. But we know that there are no such battles on record ; and we desire to impress upon our countrymen, that our little army under General Taylor has achieved for itself a reputation, such as no other army has ever won in modern times, and the scene of which will hereafter be referred to as another Thermopylae.”

The writer goes on further to state the causes which produced these victories, and the position which he has taken seems to be

fully sustained. For our own part, we feel inclined to add our opinion that to one particular arm of the service may be attributed a large share of the execution that crowned the result of those memorable days with success. The splendid corps of light artillery, directed by their fearless and disciplinarian commanders, dealt death among the ranks of the enemy with a double hand. Their expeditious advances, their strategic manœuvres, their unlimbering with the speed of lightning, and the deadly aim of their ordnance, spread confusion, terror, and destruction through dense columns to which their operations were directed. There was no evasion of this terrible arm except in flight; no approach to its batteries but with immense loss.

The writer goes on:—

“ Now a few words as to the causes which produced these two victories. We said on the 12th of May, when apprehensions were very general for the fate of our army, we felt very certain, that before that day, General Taylor had met and dispersed the entire force of the enemy, *if it was not more than four times as great as his own!* We said that this opinion was based upon a knowledge, that no disciplined troops ever yet abandoned their officers; that we knew our old comrades well, knew of what material they were composed—what West Point had made them—and that they would never yield or retreat. We knew that every officer in that little army, was prepared for victory or death; and that such being the case, and knowing their men were disciplined and would certainly stand by them, we felt that victory was inevitable, unless the opposing force was so great as to forbid its possibility; in which case our whole army would be cut to pieces—selling their lives dearly, but never yielding. And such, too, would have been their conduct, and such the result of this affair, if the opposing force had been English instead of Mexican.

“ To this gallantry and determination on the part of our officers, we are indebted for the glorious achievements of the 8th and 9th of May; and an examination into the killed and wounded, very certainly demonstrates this fact. When in order of battle, the officers are always posted with a view to their greater security, as they are required to conduct the battle. Thus the company officers are

immediately in the rear of their men in line of battle, and the field and staff, still further in the rear ; and it is admitted to be a sound calculation, that when the proportion of officers to the rank and file is as one to twenty, the proportion of killed and wounded should be one officer to every forty of the rank and file, owing to the greater security of their position, intended to preserve their lives. Now let us apply this calculation to the battle of Resaca de la Palma.

" In that ever memorable affair, the proportion of officers to the rank and file, was as one to thirteen ; and therefore, according to European calculation, the proportion of killed and wounded, should have been one to twenty-six. Now what are the facts ? The total of killed and wounded is one hundred and twenty-two, of whom fifteen were commissioned officers, or one out of every eight !

" Here, in a few words, the country has the means of determining how it was that seventeen hundred American troops drove from their selected position, defeated and utterly routed, four times their number of disciplined Mexican cavalry, artillery, and infantry !—Here is the true cause of the victories of the 8th and 9th of May, being the most wonderful in the history of modern warfare. Our officers fought in front of their men. They literally led them to the cannon's mouth ; and as the history of these battles proves, when their swords were useless, threw them away, picked up the muskets and accoutrements of those who had fallen, and with these, set their men an example of coolness and daring which made every private in the little army feel himself a hero. When officers thus lead their men up to the very mouths of the enemy's cannon ; when sword in hand, or with the bayonet, they drive the enemy from their guns, and then themselves perform the work of gunners ; when for hours, as was the case in our flying artillery, the officers helped work the guns, and in some cases did the duty of three privates—victory is certain—inevitable. Such was the character of the battles of the 8th and 9th of May—such the manner in which they were won—and such the conduct of our officers. Under such circumstances, our whole army might have been destroyed ; but if not, then was victory absolutely certain. We care not how exalted the character of the troops opposed to them, or to what nation they belonged. in this, their first fight after years of peace and the taunts

of members of Congress, it was morally and physically impossible to resist them. Honor—unfading and perpetual honor—to General Taylor, the gallant officers who so nobly sustained him, and to the army of heroes they led to victory on the 8th and 9th of May, 1846; and most fortunate for them and for the country was it, that we had no undisciplined volunteers or militia in those battles. We doubt not their courage; but no undisciplined troops could have fought those fights. It would have been morally impossible for any such to have withstood the fire of the enemy on those days and do what was required of our soldiers and officers; and had there been any faltering—had a single battalion given way, as they most assuredly would—the enemy would have been encouraged to persevere, and our whole army might have been annihilated and cut to pieces. Never was the value of disciplined men more triumphantly demonstrated than on these glorious occasions; and since we have learned that General Taylor compels the volunteers with him to receive six hours' drilling per day, and relieves them from all other duties to make soldiers of them, we venture to predict that they too, when they meet the enemy, will add to the reputation of our arms. ‘Rough and Ready’ will first make them soldiers, and then win victories with them.”

The London Herald remarks: “The proceedings of the soldiers under General Taylor have been such as to do honor to the Republic. The little army amounting to but a handful of men, at a distance of thousands of miles from any available succor, has defended itself against superior numbers, and at length has crossed the Rio Grande, and took possession of Matamoras, almost in sight of an opposing enemy—an exploit which Napoleon has pronounced to be the *perfection of generalship*.”

There seems to be some discrepancy in the estimates of the enemy’s force, which is not satisfied by the accounts given by the enemy himself. The number of his force is generally set down at six thousand or thereabouts.

We shall now proceed to notice some of the demonstrations of his countrymen towards General Taylor for his achievements on the Rio Grande, his character as a man and a soldier, his talents, politics, personal appearance, etc.

Upon the receipt of the communication of General Taylor, giving a report of the engagements on the Bravo del Norte on the 8th and 9th of May, the President, in a letter from his own hand to General Taylor, commends the gallantry of those concerned, and transmits a brevet of *Major-General* to the commander himself, which compliment and appointment were sanctioned by the senate.

The legislature of Louisiana, then in session, promptly, and by acclamation, adopted a set of resolutions expressing *thanks* to General Taylor and the officers under his command for the gallantry displayed by them on those occasions ; and also passed an act instanter appropriating a sword to the commanding general, and appointed a committee of their own body to repair to the seat of war and present them to the hero, an honor never before conferred on an American general, that we are aware. The legislature of Tennessee did the same. Mr. Zacharie, chairman of the committee, in presenting the resolutions and thanks of the legislature of Louisiana, said : “ My own heart and the heart of every Louisianian, approves of the beautiful sentiments of these resolutions. In behalf of the state of Louisiana, I thank you and your brave army for the additional lustre which these glorious victories have shed upon American arms.”

General Taylor, after paying a high compliment to Louisiana and to the chivalry of her sons, concludes thus :

“ The generous and timely action of the legislature of Louisiana will never be forgotten by us ; its name will be embalmed in our hearts as a cherished memorial. We feel that we have only done our duty ; yet we cannot but feel highly gratified to have gained the approbation of our fellow-citizens. Together with the love of our country, which is common to us all, it is that approbation which cheers and animates the soldier in the hour of battle. I therefore, in the name of my officers and men, thank you and the patriotic state which you represent for the honor conferred on us.”

Congress also, by a unanimous vote, returned thanks to the army for its gallant achievements on the Rio Grande, and the country, through all its avenues of expression, burst forth in one spontaneous demonstration of approbation and praise.

The admiration for the hero of these battles was so strong and so

deep, that not only politicians, but the PEOPLE in various parts of our union directed their eyes towards him at once as a man suitable to be chosen to the Presidency at the next election, in 1848; and with this view, meetings were called, some of which put him in nomination for that high office, and others making an expression in his favor that cannot be mistaken.

At Trenton, New Jersey, a meeting was called and resolutions passed. A popular speaker referred to the qualifications of General Taylor, as a general and a statesman, and his title to the gratitude and affection of the American people, above any other man; to his promptness and energy, as evidenced in his dispatches, and his whole conduct as a devoted patriot and a brave soldier.

A meeting was also held in New York city, which complimented him highly on his military genius, and his achievements on the Rio Grande.

General Taylor possesses a high order of talents—a brilliant intellect, and wields a pen as he does his sword, to the honor of his nation. His letters are admirable specimens of composition, lucid and eloquent. “The unassuming yet self-possessed cool man of superior judgment, may be easily distinguished in his dispatches.” His modesty in detailing the events of his battles amounts nearly to a fault, and he is entirely free of that hyperbole, which we acknowledge is too often characteristic of military commanders. His language is chaste, his words well chosen, and the general tone of his communications evinces a mind well cultivated and informed, and an education unmolested.

The London Times, the most powerful newspaper, as well as the most rabid in its prejudices against America and every thing American, of any in Great Britain, speaks thus of Gen. Taylor’s dispatches:

“The dispatches of General Taylor are remarkable for their succinct energy, and the absence of those verbose and grandiloquent strains which we are accustomed to meet with in narratives of American exploits. He writes like a man of sense, skill, and courage; and we have not the slightest wish to detract from the honors he has gallantly earned under the flag of his country.”

The same paper says of the behavior of General Taylor and his troops:

"Whatever opinion we may entertain of the causes of this war, and the political motives in which it originated, the behavior of the American general and his troops deserves to be judged of by a much higher standard than the policy of the government which it is their duty to serve."

His qualities of heart are such as do honor to mankind, and admirably fit him for the high station he holds, by elevating him in the affections of his comrades. Frank, affable, generous, feeling for the misfortunes or sufferings of his command, and making the alleviation of their distresses his first duty after conquering the foe, he is looked upon and regarded as a friend by his people, who would follow him to the very muzzle of an enemy's guns.

As a general he is one of the best disciplinarians our army can boast. He is an experienced and tried soldier, elevated from one grade to another, almost in every instance for "meritorious services," and not by the adventitious aid of friends, or distinction of birth, to the rank of MAJOR-GENERAL. In his operations on the battle-field, he is wise, shrewd, and cautious; deep, though clear-headed, in his plans, and when *he strikes he strikes hard*. A man of fearless courage, he takes the most active part in his engagements, and never urges his men where he would not go himself. "Boys," said he, coolly riding into the hollow square into which the infantry was thrown during the battle of Resaca de la Palma, in order to receive the charge of the Mexican cavalry, "*Boys, I will place myself in your square,*" and there witnessed the assault and repulse as if the regiment was merely manoeuvring on parade.

He is a man of an iron constitution, and during his campaign in Florida acquired the appellation of "*Rough and Ready*," by which he is now sometimes designated. In person he is about five feet eight inches in height, square and broad across his shoulders, muscular in his frame, full chest, and somewhat inclined to stockiness. His face is full and round, with high cheek bones, browned much by the tropical suns. His eyes are of a sloe blackness, quick and piercing; and his hair and brows thick and heavy, and also jetty black.

He is perfectly republican in his habits, associations, and dress, but gentlemanly in his demeanor, and understands well what be-

longs to his rank while on duty. He has that industrious turn, that spirit of activity and restlessness, which leads him to neglect or overlook his apparel, and were he not in his uniform, it would be a difficult matter at times to recognise him as a commanding general.

A gentleman, now in this vicinity, and formerly an officer in the army, and attached to Col. Taylor's regiment, and therefore perfectly well acquainted with him, had occasion to stop at Fort Jesup in Louisiana, some years ago, while Col. T. was stationed at that post. Col. T. was absent when he arrived, at a court-martial one hundred miles distant, on the Arkansas. Mr. K. was walking out one morning in the direction of Red River, which runs not far distant from Fort Jesup, and on descending a slight declivity, he saw ahead of him a good sized, very dark man, jogging along on a diminutive jackass. The man was dressed in a very coarse black bombazine frock-coat, drab breeches, with the bottoms put under the long tops of his boots, black cravat tied loosely about his neck, on his head a coarse straw-hat, whose broad rim flapped up and down over his face as the motion of the animal stirred it, disclosing ever and anon a pair of lustrous black eyes, and his hair streaming in the breeze. The sides of the jackass were gored deeply by the action of the huge Spanish spurs, which the rider had upon his heels, and both rider and animal were covered with mud and dust, and withal looked much jaded. The rider was COLONEL TAYLOR. He had rode across the country one hundred miles with the utmost speed to join his post. Our informant passed the "time of day" with him, but did not recognise him; and on his return to post they laughed heartily over the circumstance.

Though possessing perhaps more vigor of mind, as a soldier and civilian General Taylor has much that cast possessed by the lamented General Harrison.

General Taylor, though arrived at high station, still possesses his republican simplicity and homeliness in camp, living, and attire. A writer from Brazos de Santiago, speaking of a visit to the General's camp, says: "He was introduced to a very plain, shabbily dressed old gentleman, of rather small stature, about sixty years of age; and who looked, by his hardy appearance, as if he had

been encamping out all his life. This was the commander-in-chief of the army of occupation. He has been thirty-eight years in service on the frontiers of our country. One of his officers remarked, that 'old as he is, he bears the fatigues and privations of the campaign better than any one under him.' He was affable, dignified, and in excellent spirits. His tent was no larger and no better than those of the other officers, and his table was his camp-chest, in which he carried his cooking utensils, &c. His plates were tin pans, and his cups tin pannikins. A small supply of brown sugar was kept in a cannister, and not a piece of crockery was to be seen. A party of six was thus entertained in homely style, and they all seemed to enjoy it abundantly."

The above sketch is no doubt over-wrought, and contains one or two errors, particularly with regard to his stature and his dress. His dress is always plain, especially when in the field and in *active* service, but never *shabby*. His simplicity of habit is, however, proverbial, and is no discredit to his good sense.

General Taylor, in politics, is a *Whig*, and was strongly opposed to the annexation of Texas. In conversation he is perfectly free and unreserved with his companions in arms, to the lowest grade of rank. His officers have no delicacy in riding up to his camp, at any time, and hailing him in the most familiar but respectful manner. They are always sure of a hearty welcome, and an invitation to alight and partake of his hospitalities. It has been said that he is habitually taciturn on the subject of his plans. This is a mistake. He converses openly with his officers on all occasions in regard to his plan of operations, and consults them often on important movements.

He is temperate in his habits, but can join a friend in a glass of wine with a rational gusto. He is industrious and assiduous in his vocation and duties, always attending to business before pleasure. He pays no regard to the pomp of war, and does not even avail himself of a marquee, which his rank entitles him to; and while at Corpus Christi had no guard about his tent. He seldom appeared in uniform except in review, but wore a plain blue frock, jean pantaloons, and black cravat tied loosely about his neck.

CHAPTER IV.

Captain Taylor in 1812.—His gallant defence of Fort Harrison.—His attempt to send dispatches to Governor Harrison.—Colonel Russel with his rangers.

In the fall of 1812, Captain Taylor had command of Fort Harrison. On the 3d of September a furious attack was made on this post by a large body of Indians, in the night-time, but the design of the savages was completely baffled by a handful of men under Captain T., through great courage and prudence. This attack and repulse is thus described by Captain Taylor himself in a letter to Governor Harrison.

"On Thursday evening, the 3d instant, after retreat beating, four guns were heard to fire in the direction where two young men (citizens who resided here) were making hay, about four hundred yards distant from the fort. I was immediately impressed with the idea that they were killed by the Indians, as the Miamis or Weas had that day informed me that the Prophet's party would soon be here for the purpose of commencing hostilities; and that they had been directed to leave this place, which we were about to do. I did not think it prudent to send out at that late hour of the night to see what had become of them; and their not coming in convinced me that I was right in my conjecture. I waited until eight o'clock next morning, when I sent out a corporal with a small party to find them, if it could be done without running too much risk of being drawn into an ambuscade. He soon sent back to inform me that he had found them both killed, and wished to know my further orders; I sent the cart and oxen, had them brought in and buried; they had been shot with two balls, scalped, and cut in a most shocking manner. Late in the evening of the 4th instant, old Joseph Lenar and between thirty and forty Indians arrived from the Prophet's town with a white flag; among whom were about ten women, and the men were composed of chiefs of the different tribes that compose the Prophet's party. A Shawnee man that spoke good English, informed me that old Lenar intended to speak

to me next morning and try and get something to eat. At retreat beating I examined the men's arms and found them all in good order, and completed their cartridges to sixteen rounds per man. As I had not been able to mount a guard of more than six privates and two non-commissioned officers for some time past, and sometimes part of them every other day, from the unhealthiness of the company; I had not conceived my force adequate to the defence of this post, should it be vigorously attacked, for some time past.

"As I had just recovered from a very severe attack of fever, I was not able to be up much through the night. After tattoo, I cautioned the guard to be vigilant, and ordered one of the non-commissioned officers, as the sentinels could not see every part of the garrison, to walk round on the inner side during the whole night, to prevent the Indians taking any advantage of us, providing they had any intention of attacking us. About eleven o'clock I was awakened by the firing of one of the sentinels. I sprang up, ran out, and ordered the men to their posts; when my orderly-sergeant (who had charge of the upper block-house) called out that the Indians had fired the lower block-house, (which contained the property of the contractor, which was deposited in the lower part, the upper having been assigned to a corporal and two privates as an alarm-post.) The guns had begun to fire pretty smartly from both sides. I directed the buckets to be got ready, and water brought from the well, and the fire extinguished immediately, as it was perceptible at that time; but from debility or other cause the men were very slow in executing my orders. The word 'fire' appeared to throw the whole of them into confusion; and by the time they had got the water, and broken open the door, the fire had unfortunately communicated to a quantity of whiskey, (the *stock* having *licked* several holes through the lower part of the buildings, after the salt that was stored there, through which they had introduced the fire without being discovered, as the night was very dark,) and in spite of every exertion we could make use of, in less than a moment it ascended to the roof and baffled every effort we could make to extinguish it. As that block-house adjoined the barracks that make part of the fortifications, most of the men immediately gave themselves up for lost, and I had the greatest difficulty in getting

my orders executed ; and, sir, what from the raging of the fire—the yelling and howling of several hundred Indians—the cries of nine women and children, (a part soldiers' and a part citizens' wives, who had taken shelter in the fort,) and the desponding of so many of the men, which was worse than all—I can assure you that my feelings were very unpleasant ; and indeed there were not more than ten or fifteen men able to do a great deal, the others being either sick or convalescent—and to add to our other misfortunes two of the stoutest men in the fort, and that I had every confidence in, jumped the picket and left us. But my presence of mind did not for a moment forsake me. I saw that by throwing part of the roof that joined the block-house that was on fire, and keeping the end perfectly wet, the whole row of buildings might be saved, and leave only an entrance of eighteen or twenty feet for the Indians to enter after the house was consumed ; and that a temporary breastwork might be erected to prevent their even entering there. I convinced the men that this could be accomplished, and it appeared to inspire them with new life, and never did men act with more firmness or desperation. Those that were able (while the others kept up a constant fire from the other block-house and the two bastions) mounted the roofs of the houses with Dr. Clark at their head, (who acted with the greatest firmness and presence of mind the whole time the attack lasted, which was seven hours,) under a shower of bullets, and in less than a moment threw off as much of the roof as was necessary. This was done only with the loss of one man and two wounded, and I am in hope neither of them dangerous. The man that was killed was a little deranged, and did not get off the house as soon as directed, or he would not have been hurt ; and although the barracks were several times in a blaze, and an immense quantity of fire against them, the men used such exertion that they kept it under, and before day raised a temporary breastwork as high as a man's head although the Indians continued to pour in a heavy fire of ball and an innumerable quantity of arrows during the whole time the attack lasted, in every part of the parade. I had but one other man killed, nor any other wounded inside the fort, and he lost his life by being too anxious. He got into one of the *galleries* in the bas-

tions, and fired over the pickets, and called out to his comrades that he had killed an Indian, and neglecting to stoop down, in an instant he was shot dead. One of the men that jumped the pickets returned an hour before day, and running up towards the gate begged for God's sake for it to be opened. I suspected it to be a stratagem of the Indians to get in, as I did not recollect the voice. I directed the men in the bastion where I happened to be to shoot him, let him be who he would, and one of them fired at him, but fortunately he ran up to the other bastion, where they knew his voice, and Dr. Clark directed him to lie down close to the pickets, behind an empty barrel that happened to be there, and at daylight I had him let in. His arm was broke in a shocking manner ; which he says was done by the Indians, which I suppose was the cause of his returning. I think it probable that he will not recover. The other they caught about one hundred and thirty yards from the garrison, and cut him all to pieces.

" After keeping up a constant fire until about six o'clock the next morning, which we began to return with some effect after daylight, they removed out of reach of our guns. A party of them drove up the horses that belonged to the citizens here, and as they could not catch them readily, shot the whole of them in our sight, as well as a number of their hogs. They drove off the whole of the cattle, which amounted to sixty-five head, as well as the public oxen. I had the vacancy filled up before night (which was made by the burning of the block-house) with a strong row of pickets, which I got by pulling down the guard-house. We lost the whole of our provisions, but must make out to live upon green corn until we can get a supply, which I am in hopes will not be long. I believe the whole of the Miamies or Weas were among the Prophet's party, as one chief gave his orders in that language, which resembled Stone Eater's voice, and I believe Negro Legs was there likewise. A Frenchman here understands their different languages ; and several of the Miamies and Weas, that have been frequently here, were recognised by the Frenchman and soldiers the next morning. The Indians suffered smartly, but were so numerous as to take off all that were shot. They continued with us until the next morning, but made no other attempt on the fort, nor have we

seen any thing more of them since. I have delayed informing you of my situation as I did not like to weaken the garrison, and I looked for some person from Vincennes, and none of my men were acquainted with the woods, and therefore I would either have to take the road or the river, which I was fearful was guarded by small parties of Indians that would not dare attack a company of rangers that was on a scout ; but being disappointed, I have at length determined to send a couple of my men by water, and am in hopes they will arrive safe. I think it would be best to send the provisions under a pretty strong escort, as the Indians may attempt to prevent their coming. If you carry on an expedition against the Prophet this fall, you ought to be well provided with every thing, as you may calculate on having every inch of ground disputed between this and there that they can defend with advantage.

“Wishing, &c.

“Z. TAYLOR.”

Failing in this attempt to forward his dispatches, Captain Taylor writes Governor Harrison as follows, three days afterwards :—

“FORT HARRISON, Sept. 13, 1812.

“DEAR SIR,—I wrote you on the 10th instant, giving you an account of an attack on this place, as well as my situation, which account I attempted to send by water, but the two men whom I dispatched in a canoe after night, found the river so well guarded that they were obliged to return. The Indians had built a fire on the bank of the river, a short distance below the garrison, which gave them an opportunity of seeing any craft that might attempt to pass, and were waiting with a canoe ready to intercept it. I expect the fort, as well as the road to Vincennes, is as well or better watched than the river. But my situation compels me to make one other attempt by land, and my orderly sergeant and one other man sets out to-night with strict orders to avoid the road in the day-time, and depend entirely on the woods, although neither of them have ever been in Vincennes by land, nor do they know any thing of the country, but I am in hopes they will reach you in safety. I send them with great reluctance from their ignorance of the woods. I

think it very probable there is a large party of Indians waylaying the road between this and Vincennes, likely about the Narrows, for the purpose of intercepting any party that may be coming to this place, as the cattle they got here will supply them plentifully with provisions for some time to come.

“Please, &c.

“Z. TAYLOR

“His Excellency, GOVERNOR HARRISON.”

At the time of writing this letter Colenel RUSSEL was within fifteen miles of Fort Harrison with a reinforcement of six hundred mounted rangers and five hundred infantry, though his approach was unknown to Captain Taylor, and arrived to his relief on the 16th.

CHAPTER V.

General Taylor's Expedition to the Prophet's Town.—Promotion to Major.—Repairs to Florida.—Battle of Okee-cho-bee.

ON the 11th November, the army under Major-general Hopkins left Fort Harrison on an expedition to the Prophet's town, which they reached on the 19th; three hundred men were detached to surprise the Winnebago town, lying on Ponce Passu creek, one mile from the Wabash and four below the Prophet's. This party, commanded by General Butler, surrounded the place, but found it evacuated. On the three following days they were embarked in the destruction of the Prophet's town, a village of about forty cabins and huts, and the large Kick-a-poo village below it, on the other side of the river, consisting of one hundred and sixty cabins; destroying the corn, reconnoitring the adjacent country, and constructing works of defence. We cannot particularize the events of this expedition, but suffice to say it proved highly successful, and Captain Taylor took a most active part in the business of the campaign. Major-general Hopkins, in his dispatch to Governor Shelby, in rendering his acknowledgments to the officers under his command, says, "as also to Captain Z. Taylor, of the 7th United States regiment, for a prompt and effectual support in every instance."

On his return from this expedition Captain Taylor found a package for him from the seat of government: and upon its being opened, was discovered to contain a commission from President Madison, conferring on him the rank of *brevet Major*, as a reward for his gallant defence of Fort Harrison, and bore the date of that event.

Major Taylor was promoted to colonel in 1832, which has been his lineal rank until recently, when he was appointed by the President and senate **MAJOR-GENERAL**, according to the provisions of an act passed the present session to increase the number of Major and Brigadier-generals, etc. In the early part of the difficulties in

Florida he repaired thither, and few officers rendered the country better service in that campaign.

On the 25th of December, 1837, was fought the disastrous battle of Okee-cho-bee, between Colonel Taylor and the Seminoles and Mickasukies under Alligator and Sam Jones. The United States army had now been in operation in Florida for two years, and Colonel Taylor was in command of the first brigade, at Fort Gardner, south of the Withlacoochee. On the 19th of December, he received a communication from Major-general Jesup, informing him that all hopes of bringing the war to a close by negotiation, through the interference or mediation of the Cherokee delegation, were at an end, Sam Jones, with the Mickasukies, having determined to fight it out to the last; and directing him to proceed with the least possible delay against any portion of the enemy he might hear of within striking distance, and to destroy or capture him.

The next morning after receiving this communication, Colonel Taylor marched with the whole of his command, except an adequate force under two officers left to protect the depot, with twelve days' rations only, his means of transportation not enabling him to carry more. His force consisted of Captain Munro's company of the 4th artillery, consisting of thirty-five men; the 1st infantry, under Colonel Davenport, one hundred and ninety-seven strong; the 4th infantry, under command of Lieutenant-colonel Foster, two hundred and seventy-four men; the 6th infantry, under Lieutenant-colonel Thompson, two hundred and twenty-one men; the Missouri volunteers, one hundred and eighty men; Morgan's Spies, forty-seven; and thirty pioneers, thirteen pontoniers, and seventy Delaware Indians; making in all, exclusive of officers, one thousand thirty-two men; the greater part of the Shawnees having been detached, and the balance refusing to accompany him, under the pretext that a number of them were sick, and the remainder were without moccasins.

He moved down the west side of the Kissimmee, in a southerly course, towards Lake Istopoga, for the reasons that a portion of the hostiles were to be found in that direction; that if General Jesup should fall in with the Mickasukies and drive them, they might attempt to elude him by crossing the Kissimmee from the east to the

west side of the peninsula, between Fort Gardner and its entrance into Okee-cho-bee, in which case he might be near at hand to intercept them; to overawe and induce such of the enemy as had been making propositions to give themselves up, and who had been slow to fulfil their promises; and also to erect block-houses and a small picket work on the Kissimmee, for a third depot, forty or fifty miles below the fort, and obtain a knowledge of the country, as he had no guide to rely upon, and by this means open a communication with Colonel Smith, who was operating up the Caloosehatchee or Sanybel river by his orders.

In the evening of his first day's march, Colonel Taylor met the Indian chief Jumper, with his family, and a part of his band, consisting of fifteen men, some of them with families, and a few negroes—in all sixty-three souls, on his way to give himself up, in conformity to a previous arrangement Colonel Taylor had entered into with him. They were conducted by Captain Parks, a half-breed at the head of the friendly Indians, both Shawnees and Delawares. The army encamped that night near the spot, and the next morning, having sent on Jumper and his party to Fort Frazer, Colonel Taylor continued his march, preceded by three Seminoles, to gain intelligence as to the position of the enemy. About noon of the same day, he sent forward one battalion of Gentry's regiment, under command of Lieutenant-colonel Price, to pick up any stragglers that might fall in his way; to encamp two or three miles in advance of the main force; to act with great circumspection, and to communicate promptly any occurrence that might take place in his vicinity important for Colonel Taylor to know.

About ten o'clock in the evening, Colonel Taylor received a note from Colonel Price, stating that the three Seminoles sent forward in the morning had returned; that they had been at or where Alligator had encamped, twelve or fifteen miles in his advance; that Alligator had left there with a part of his family four days before, under pretext of separating his relations, &c., from the Mickasukies, preparatory to his surrendering with them; that there were several families remaining at the camp referred to, who wished to give themselves up, and would remain there until Colonel T. took possession of them, unless they were forcibly carried off that

night by the Mickasukies, who were encamped at no great distance from them.

In consequence of this intelligence, after directing Lieutenant-colonel Davenport to follow him early in the morning with the infantry, a little after midnight Colonel Taylor put himself at the head of the residue of his mounted men, joined Lieutenant-colonel Price, proceeded on, crossing Istopoga outlet, and soon after daylight took possession of the encampment referred to, when he found the inmates had not been disturbed, amounting in all to twenty-two individuals. He learned from an old man among them that Alligator was anxious to give himself up, and he sent him to inform him that if he was sincere in his professions, he would meet him the next day, at a place designated, on the Kissimmee.

When the infantry came up, Colonel Taylor moved on to the place of meeting with Alligator, which on reaching late in the evening, encamped. At eleven o'clock the old Indian returned, bringing a very equivocal message from Alligator, whom he stated he had met accidentally. Also that the Mickasukies were still encamped on the opposite side of the river, where they had been for some days, and determined to have a fight with the United States troops. Colonel Taylor at once determined on indulging them as soon as practicable. Accordingly the next morning, after laying out a small stockade work for the protection of a future depot, in order to enable him to move with the greatest celerity, he deposited the whole of his heavy baggage, including artillery, &c., and having provisioned the command, to include the twenty-sixth, after leaving Captain Munroe with his company, the pioneer, pontoniers, with eighty-five sick and disabled infantry, and a portion of the friendly Indians, who alleged that they were unable to march further, crossed the Kissimmee, taking the old Indian as a guide who had been captured the day before, and who accompanied them with great apparent reluctance in pursuit of the enemy, and early the next day reached Alligator's encampment, situated on the edge of Cabbage-tree Hammock, in the midst of a large prairie; from the appearance of which, and other encampments in the vicinity, and the many evidences of slaughtered cattle, there must have been several hundred individuals.

The spies surprised another encampment at no great distance in the midst of a swamp, in which were a small party of young men, an old man, and some women and children, who raised the white flag, and were taken possession of. They were Seminoles, and informed Colonel Taylor that the Mickasukies, headed by A-vi-a-ka, (Sam Jones,) was some ten or twelve miles distant, encamped in a swamp, and were prepared to fight. Dismissing the old man, and making provision for those that came in, Colonel Taylor moved on, under guidance of the Seminoles, towards the camp of the Mickasukies.

Between two and three o'clock in the afternoon he reached a very dense cypress swamp, through which they were compelled to pass, and in which the guides informed them they might be attacked. After making the necessary disposition for battle, it was ascertained that there was no enemy to oppose them. The army crossed over and encamped for the night, it being very late. During the passage of the rear, Captain Parks, who was in advance with a few friendly Indians, fell in with two of the enemy's spies—one on horseback the other on foot—and succeeded in capturing the latter. He was an active young warrior, armed with an excellent rifle, fifty balls in his pouch, and an adequate proportion of powder. This Indian confirmed the information which had previously been received from the other Indians, and, in addition, stated that a large body of Seminoles, headed by John Cohua, Co-a-eeo-chee, and, no doubt, Alligator, with other chiefs, were encamped five or six miles from them, near the Mickasukies, with a cypress swamp and dense hammock between them and the latter.

The army moved forward at daylight the next morning, and after marching five or six miles reached the camp of the Seminoles, on the borders of another cypress swamp, which must have contained several hundred, and bore evident traces of having been abandoned in a great hurry, as the fires were still burning, and quantities of beef lying on the ground unconsumed.

Here the troops were again disposed of in order of battle, but they found no enemy to oppose them, and the command was crossed over, where they entered a large prairie in their front, on which two or three hundred cattle were grazing, and a number of Indian po-

nies. Here another young Indian warrior was captured, armed and equipped as the former. He pointed out a dense hammock on the right, about a mile distant, in which he said the hostiles were situated and waiting to give them battle.

At this place the final disposition was made to attack them, which was in two lines; the volunteers under Gentry, and Morgan's spies, to form the first line in extended order, who were instructed to enter the hammock, and, in the event of being attacked and hard pressed, were to fall back in rear of the regular troops, out of reach of the enemy's fire; the second line was composed of the fourth and sixth infantry, who were instructed to sustain the volunteers, the first infantry being held in reserve.

Moving on in the direction of the hammock, after proceeding about a quarter of a mile they reached the swamp that separated them from the enemy, three quarters of a mile in breadth, being totally impassable for horse and nearly so for foot, covered with a thick growth of saw-grass five feet high, and about knee-deep in mud and water, which extended to the left as far as the eye could reach, and to the right to a part of the swamp and hammock they had just crossed, through which ran a deep creek. At the edge of the swamp all the men were dismounted, and the horses and baggage left under a suitable guard. Captain Allen was detached with the two companies of mounted infantry to examine the swamp and hammock to the right; and in case he should not find the enemy in that direction, was to return to the baggage, and, in the event of his hearing a heavy firing, was immediately to join Colonel Taylor.

CHAPTER VI.

Battle of Okee-cho-bee Concluded—Effect of this Battle—Colonel Taylor given in Command of Posts.—Promotion.—Takes Command of Army in Florida.—Resigns.—Ordered to Texas.

ALL the arrangements for an attack upon the enemy having been made, Colonel Taylor crossed the swamp in the order stated in the last chapter. On reaching the borders of the hammock the volunteers and spies received a heavy fire from the enemy, which was returned by them for a short time, when their gallant commander, Colonel Gentry, fell, mortally wounded. They mostly broke, and instead of forming in the rear of the regulars, as had been directed, they retired across the swamp to their baggage and horses, nor could they again be brought into action as a body, although efforts were made by Colonel Taylor's staff to induce them to do so.

The enemy, however, were promptly checked and driven back by the fourth and sixth infantry, which in truth might be said to be a moving battle. The weight of the enemy's fire was principally concentrated on five companies of the sixth infantry, which not only stood firm, but continued to advance until their gallant commander, Lieutenant-colonel Thompson, and his adjutant, Lieutenant Center, were killed; and every officer, with one exception, as well as most of the non-commissioned, including the sergeant-major and four of the orderly-sergeants, killed and wounded of those companies; when that portion of the regiment retired for a short distance and were reformed, one of those companies having but *four* members left untouched.

Lieutenant-colonel Foster, with six companies, amounting in all to one hundred and sixty men, gained the hammock in good order, where he was joined by Captain Noel, with the two remaining companies of the sixth infantry, and Captain Gillam, of Gentry's volunteers, with a few additional men, and continued to drive the enemy for a considerable time, and by a change of front, separated his line, and continued to drive him until he reached the great lake Okee-cho-bee, which was in the rear of the enemy's position, and

on which their encampment extended for more than a mile. As soon as Colonel Taylor was informed that Captain Allen was advancing, he ordered the first infantry to move to the left, gain the enemy's right flank and turn it, which order was executed in the promptest manner possible; and as soon as that regiment got in position, the enemy gave one fire and retreated, being pursued by the first, fourth, and sixth, and some of the volunteers who had joined them, until near night, and until these troops were nearly exhausted, and the enemy driven in all directions.

The action was a severe one, and continued from half past twelve until after three P. M., a part of the time very close and severe. Colonel Taylor's command suffered much, having twenty-six killed and one hundred and twelve wounded, among whom were some of his most valuable officers. The hostiles, it is thought, suffered in equal proportion, they having left ten dead on the ground, besides, doubtless, carrying off many more, as is customary with them when practicable.

As soon as the enemy was completely broken, Colonel Taylor turned his attention to taking care of the wounded, to facilitate their removal to his baggage, where he ordered an encampment to be formed, directed Captain Taylor to cross over to the spot, and employ every individual whom he might find there in constructing a small footway across the swamp; this, with great exertions, was completed in a short time after dark, when all the dead and wounded were carried over in litters, made for that purpose, with one exception, a private, who was killed, and could not be found.

In speaking of this disastrous though successful action, Colonel Taylor says, in his official communication to the department, "I trust I may be permitted to say, that I experienced one of the most trying scenes of my life, and he who could have looked on it with indifference, his nerves must have been very differently organized from my own; besides the killed, there lay one hundred and twelve wounded officers and soldiers, who had accompanied me one hundred and forty-five miles, most of the way through an unexplored wilderness, without guides, who had so gallantly beat the enemy, under my orders, in his strongest position, and who had to be conveyed back through swamps and hammocks, from whence

we set out without any apparent means of doing. This service, however, was encountered and overcome, and they have been conveyed thus far, and proceeded on to Tampa Bay, on rude litters, constructed with the axe and knife alone, with poles and dry hides —the latter being found in great abundance at the encampment of the hostiles. The litters were conveyed on the backs of our weak and tottering horses, aided by the residue of the command, with more ease and comfort to the sufferers than I could have supposed; and with as much as they could have been in ambulances of the most improved and modern construction."

The day after the battle Colonel Taylor and his command remained at their encampment, occupied in taking care of the wounded, and in the sad office of interring the dead; also in preparing litters for the removal of the wounded, and collecting, with a portion of the mounted men, the horses and cattle in the vicinity belonging to the enemy; of which they found about one hundred of the former, many of them saddled, and nearly three hundred of the latter. On the morning of the 27th, Colonel Taylor left the encampment for the Kissimmee, where they had left their heavy baggage, which place they reached about noon the next day, and finding the stockade which he had ordered to be constructed by Captain Munroe nearly completed, he left two companies and a few Indians to garrison it, and proceeded on to Fort Gardner. Arriving there, he sent on the wounded to Tampa Bay, with the fourth and sixth infantry, the former to halt at Fort Frazer, remaining himself at Fort Gardner with the first, in order to make preparations to take the field again as soon as his horses could be recruited, and his supplies in a sufficient state of forwardness to justify the measure.

In speaking of the command, Colonel Taylor commends the gallantry of the following named officers, most of whom had been engaged with him in his various campaigns in Florida and elsewhere, and some of whom have since become known with credit to themselves: Lieutenant-colonel Davenport, Colonel Foster, Major Graham, Captain Allen, Lieutenant Hooper, Captain Noel, Lieutenant Wood, Captain Andrews, Lieutenant Walker, Colonel Gentry, of the Missouri volunteers, Captain Gillam, Lieutenant Blake-

ly, Captain Childs, Lieutenants Rogers, Flanagan, Hase, Gorden, Hill, Griffin, Harrison, and McClure, Major Sconce, Captain Taylor, Lieutenant-colonel Thompson, who fell at the head of his regiment, Captain Swearingen, Adjutant Center, Lieutenant Brooke, Major Brant, Lieutenant Babbitt, and several surgeons and assistant surgeons attached to the command.

This stroke of Colonel Taylor's had a tremendous and beneficial effect towards subduing the Indians in that quarter. An officer writing from Fort Bassinger, subsequent to this battle, says : "The Indian prisoners now admit that they lost twenty killed on the ground, and a great many wounded, in the fight with Colonel Taylor. They had a strong position, and fought well, but were *terribly whipped*, and have never returned near the ground since."

Jumper, Alligator, and other chiefs and warriors, afterwards came in, whom Colonel Taylor sent out again from time to time, to induce their hostile companions to surrender themselves to the commanding officer, and by this means large numbers were brought to yield.

The general policy of Colonel Taylor while in Florida, together with his great industry and perseverance, and the hardy constitution he possessed, rendered his services immensely valuable to the government and country in subduing the savages, and bringing about a peace and reconciliation on this southern frontier.

Colonel Taylor, after the battle of Okee-cho-bee, established himself at Fort Bassinger, on the Kissimmee, about twenty miles west of Fort Lloyd. On the 1st March following, Mr. Poinsett, Secretary of War, wrote to Major-general Jesup, from which communication we extract as follows :

"The department indulged the hope, that with the extensive means placed at your disposal, the war, by a vigorous effort, might be brought to a close this campaign. If, however, you are of opinion that, from the nature of the country, and the character of the enemy, such a result is impracticable, and that it is advisable to make a temporary arrangement with the Seminoles, by which the safety of the settlements and the posts will be secured throughout the summer, you are at liberty to do so. In that event, you will establish posts at Tampa, and on the eastern shore, and

wherever else they are, in your opinion, necessary to preserve the peace of the country ; and I would suggest the propriety of leaving Colonel ZACHARY TAYLOR, of the first infantry, in command of them." Upon this suggestion, it is presumed General Jesup acted, and Colonel Taylor was given in command of the posts along the frontier.

In consideration of the services rendered in Florida, the department at Washington conferred on Colonel Taylor the rank of brigadier-general by brevet, to take date from the battle of Okee-cho-bee.

Major-general Jesup having reported that the operations in Florida would probably terminate on the 1st May, the Adjutant-general issued a "general order" on the 10th April, 1838, making such a disposition of the forces as seemed necessary ; the fifth article of which reads as follows : " Major-general Jesup will take all the necessary orders for the prompt execution of this order, and will then turn over the command of the troops in Florida to brevet Brigadier-General Z. TAYLOR, colonel of the first infantry ; and on being relieved, he will repair to the seat of government, and resume the duties of quartermaster-general." In the May following General Taylor was invested with the command of the troops agreeably with the above order, and General Jesup proceeded to Washington, reaching there about the 1st June.

General Taylor remained in command until the fore part of 1840, when he requested leave to retire from the command of the army in Florida, and was relieved by Brigadier-general Armistead, and arrived in New Orleans, with his family, on the 21st June.

In the following year he was assigned to the command of the second department, on the Arkansas, to relieve General Arbuckle. On his way to Fort Gibson, while at Little Rock, he was tendered, in a very handsome manner, a public dinner, by the citizens of that town, as an expression of esteem for his " personal worth and meritorious public services." General Taylor, in a brief note, declined the invitation on account of having been already detained on his journey an unusual length of time, and being anxious to proceed on as rapidly as possible to his destined post. General Taylor soon changed his head-quarters to Fort Smith ; and subsequently he

was transferred to Fort Jesup, Louisiana; where the following order from the department, dated the 17th September, 1844, reached him:—

“SIR,—The general-in-chief has received instructions, through the department of state, from the Executive, to hold the troops, now between the Red and Sabine rivers, ready to march, in case of a requisition being made by the Chargé d’Affaires residing near the government of Texas, to such point within our limits or those of Texas, as the said Chargé may designate, in order to restrain any hostile incursion on the part of the border Indians, as required by the provision of existing treaties.

“You will please to take such preliminary measures as may be deemed necessary to put the great part of the forces under your command designated above, in march for the above purpose at short notice.

“Should the apprehended hostilities with the Indians alluded to break out, an officer of rank, probably yourself, will be sent to command the United States forces placed in the field, and who will receive hereafter further instructions from his government.

“L. THOMAS,
“Assistant Adjutant-General.

“Brigadier-General Z. TAYLOR,
“Com. 1st Department Fort Jesup, La.”

The command of the “Army of Observation” in Texas was given soon after to General Taylor, though of course ranked by General Gaines, and somewhat to the mortification of the latter, though not to his disparagement, as his gallantry and fame are established beyond all contingencies. The assignment, however, shows the confidence the department placed in the abilities of General Taylor.

On the 16th of July, General Taylor arrived at New Orleans with his staff from Fort Jesup, on his way to Texas; and in the next march he crossed the Nueces, and planted the United States flag in the ancient department of Tamaulipas.

We shall now give a brief sketch of the lives of some of the

brave officers that took part in the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, previous to the giving an account of those engagements. We regret we cannot increase the number of these personal narratives, but want of material at hand prevents. There are very many others who distinguished themselves not only in these engagements, but stand before the country well tried and valorous officers, and whose names have years ago found a place in the annals of our frontier defence. We cannot forbear, however, mentioning some of the officers so warmly alluded to in General Taylor's official reports, and whose wisdom, great experience, and skill, served to direct the grand movements of those days, which brought about the result so gratifying and honorable to the country and all concerned. Lieutenant-Colonel McIntosh, an old war officer, and one never yet found behind his duty, or lacking in energy, with his regiment the fifth infantry, gave the greatest proof of bravery and steadiness in the action of Palo Alto by receiving a determined charge of the enemy's lancers, and then repulsing them; and in the action of the following day, he shared in the honors and the dangers, being engaged in the hottest part of the contest, and having been twice severely wounded.

Lieutenant-Colonel Belknap, a native of the empire State, and an officer, perhaps, second to none of his rank in point of ability, distinguished himself greatly by putting, with his brigade, the whole right line of the enemy to rout on the 8th, and by carrying his batteries and driving him from his position on the 9th, and effectually putting an end to the contest. General Taylor, after paying high compliments to Colonel Twiggs, the second in command, Lieutenant-Colonel Garland, commanding third brigade, Lieutenant-Colonel Childs, commanding the artillery battalion, Major Allen, and Captain Morris, of fourth and third infantry, continues:

"The impression made by Captain Duncan's battery upon the extreme right of the enemy's line at the affair of Palo Alto, contributed largely to the result of the day. The eighteen-pounder battery which played a conspicuous part in the action of the 8th, was admirably served by Lieutenant Churchill, third artillery, assisted by Lieutenant Wood, topographical engineers. Captain McCall, fourth infantry, rendered distinguished service with the

advanced corps under his orders. Its loss in killed and wounded will show how closely it was engaged. I may take occasion to say that in two former instances Captain McCall has rendered valuable services as a partisan officer."

"I derived efficient aid on both days from all the officers of my staff. Captain Bliss, Assistant Adjutant-General; Lieutenant-Colonel Payne, Inspector-General; Lieutenant Eaton, A. D. C.; Captain Waggaman, Commissary of Subsistence; Lieutenant Scavitt, Engineer, and Lieutenants Blake and Meade, Topographical Engineers, promptly conveyed my orders to every part of the field. Lieutenant-Colonel Payne was wounded in the affair of the 9th, and I have already had occasion to report the melancholy death of Lieutenant Blake by accident."

"Major Craig and Lieutenant Brereton, of the ordnance department, were actively engaged in their appropriate duties, and Surgeon Craig, medical director, superintended in person the arduous duties of the field hospitals. I take this occasion to mention generally the devotion to duty of the medical staff of the army, who have been untiring in their exertions, both in the field and in the hospitals, to alleviate the sufferings of the wounded in both armies. Captains Crossman and Myers, of the quartermaster's department, who had charge of the heavy supply train at both engagements, conducted it in a most satisfactory manner, and finally brought it up, without the smallest loss, to its destination."

Major Staniford of 5th infantry, Captain Smith of artillery battalion, Captain Ker of 2d dragoons, Captain Buchanan 4th infantry, Captains Graham, Morrison, Hoe, McKavett, Arnold, Page, (since dead from his wounds,) Scott 4th artillery, Crossman, Myers, Lieutenants Shover, Pleasanton, Winship, Wood, Dobbins, Scott, French, Gates, Burbank, Inge, Sackett, Cochran, Hays, McDonald, Chase, and Daniels, all distinguished themselves in their various duties.

CHAPTER VII.

MAJOR RINGGOLD.—His Nativity.—Joins General Scott's Staff.—Enters Service as Lieutenant.—Went to Fort Moultrie.—Assigned to Company C.—Forms new Company.—The Flying Artillery.—Ordered to Texas.—His services in the Battle of Palo Alto.—Is Wounded.—His Death.—Remarks of a Baltimore Editor.—Eulogy of a Philadelphia Editor and Judge of Court.

SAMUEL RINGGOLD was born in Washington county, Maryland, in 1800. He was the eldest son of General Samuel Ringgold, and his mother was daughter of General John Cadwallader, a distinguished citizen of Philadelphia, and renowned in the annals of the American revolution. Ringgold was sent to the Military Academy at West Point, in 1814, and graduated at the head of his class in 1818, having performed the arduous duties and requirements of that institution with credit and honor to himself. He entered the army as a lieutenant. General Scott, having his head-quarters at Philadelphia, receiving recommendations of him, and being somewhat acquainted with his family, and satisfied of his merit, selected him at once for one of his aids, and he repaired to head-quarters and joined the staff, which station he occupied for nearly three years.

While aid to General Scott, he enjoyed the respect and confidence of that distinguished officer, and profited greatly by the instruction he received under so accomplished a soldier. He possessed those qualities of heart and mind that endeared him to his associates and his superiors, and he was one of those who may be said to have no enemies, though belonging to a profession so eminently calculated to engender envy, distrust, or rivalry.

Upon leaving the staff he entered active service doubly qualified by the advantages he had enjoyed, and the close application he had pursued while in this honorable position. He was attached to the third regiment as lieutenant by brevet, and in July, 1822, he was promoted to first-lieutenant, vice Samuel Speirs raised to captain.

In 1831, he accompanied his company to Fort Moultrie, South Carolina, where he remained until the difficulties occasioned by

the agitation of the question of "nullification" were ended in 1833.

In July, 1834, he received the rank of captain by brevet, to date from May 8, 1832. August, 1836, he was promoted to captain, and assigned Company C, third artillery. In the latter part of this month he was sent to Savannah, Georgia, with his command, to garrison the fort at that place. But not long subsequent to this he was ordered to Florida, where he served through the greater part of the war, to the great injury of his health.

By orders of November 5, 1838, Captain Ringgold's company was disbanded, and he was instructed to proceed to Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and organize and equip a company of light artillery, in conformity with an act "to authorize the mounting and equipment of a part of the army of the United States," passed 1831, the men to be detailed from the first and second artillery, and to be dropped from the rolls of their respective companies, and mustered as Company C of third regiment. Captain Ringgold's former company, then in the field, was broken up, and the men transferred to the other companies of the regiment, the subalterns only joining the company at Carlisle. For "meritorious services" in Florida, the rank of MAJOR by brevet was conferred upon him by the department.

Major Ringgold now applied himself diligently to the perfection of discipline in this arm of the military service, and with great success. Mainly through his and Captain Duncan's instrumentality, the arm of light or flying artillery has become the most important in our service; and through perhaps it was never thoroughly tested until on the fields of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, the great share it contributed to the result of those battles has distinguished it as one altogether important, and demanding the serious attention of the department in its perfect organization and extension. The performances of the flying artillery in an engagement are of the most ingenious character, and the effects of their battery the most destructive to the enemy. The arms made use of are the sword, pistol, and cannon, the latter used almost as expertly as the former. "They advance rapidly, and with astonishing suddenness halt, dismount, separate their cannon from the car-

riages, replace them, mount, and start off again. At a certain signal after the firing, they instantly drop; while the enemy, supposing them disabled, venture too near, and in an instant are completely surprised, and are shot down before they can collect themselves."

Major Ringgold was ordered from Fort McHenry to Texas with the army of occupation, or "observation" as it was first designated. When General Taylor left Point Isabel to return to the fort opposite Matamoras, Major Ringgold, with his regiment, occupied a position near the vanguard. Upon reaching the field of Palo Alto, at about three o'clock, in the afternoon of the 8th of May, the action commenced by the Mexicans opening their batteries on their right, at a distance of half a mile from our line. The fire was responded to by two eighteen-pounders in charge of Lieutenant Churchill. Major Ringgold now took position to the right and front of the eighteen-pounders, at a distance of seven hundred yards from the enemy, subsequently advancing one hundred yards, and opened his battery with tremendous effect, as was shown the next day by the large number of the enemy's dead found on the field along this line.

Major Ringgold pointed the guns with his own hand, and with unerring precision, directing the shot not only to groups and masses of the enemy, but to particular men in their lines. He saw them fall in numbers; their places occupied by others, who in their turn were shot down, pointing his guns to the same place; and, to use his own words, he "felt as confident of hitting his mark as though he had been using a rifle." The infantry was formed in his rear as his support, and cheered rapturously the brilliant movements and destructive execution of his battery, while they received the enemy's fire with great coolness at a shoulder, impatient only for the order to charge.

At length a regiment of the enemy's lancers were seen to make a demonstration towards our right, apparently to gain possession of our wagon train, when Lieutenant Ridgley was detached with two pieces to check the movement. This left Major Ringgold short of men, or rather with a less number than he desired, and considered actually necessary to execute his movement with celer-

ity, and to supply the places of those who fell or became disabled. This was a source of regret, even in his last moments, that he was not enabled to do the execution he otherwise would had his complement of men been one hundred instead of little over half that number. But he gallantly and nobly did his duty. Not a shade of incapacity, want of diligence, lack of *bravery* on the battle-field, can rest on his memory, or the sunshine of his military character.

Major Ringgold, however, continued to play on the enemy with great success with his remaining pieces, two in number, advancing, retrograding, or shifting his position according to the nature of the action, for three hours, when he was shot through both thighs by a six pound ball. He was mounted, and the ball came from the right, passing through his right thigh about midway, at right angles through the holsters, tearing away the front part of the saddle and the horse's shoulders, and into the Major's left thigh. An officer came quickly to his aid—

"*Don't stay with me : you have work to do,*" said the gallant Major ; "*go ahead.*" The command of his company fell on Lieutenant Shover, who managed the batteries skilfully during the rest of the day.

He was conveyed to his camp in the charge of Dr. Byrne, of the army, placed in comfortable quarters, and his wounds dressed. An immense mass of muscles and integuments were carried away from both thighs—the arteries were not divided, neither were the bones broken. Dr. Foltz, surgeon United States army, remained with him through the night. He had but little pain, and at intervals slept. He continued to grow worse through the 9th, but conversed cheerfully upon the incidents of the battle, constantly adverting to the efficiency of his guns, and the brave conduct of his officers and men. He died at one o'clock on the morning of the 10th May, and was buried on the next day with military honors, lamented by the whole camp.

Says a Baltimore editor, he was "an accomplished gentleman, beloved by his friends, respected by all. He was devoted to his profession, and justly appreciated the high responsibilities of an officer in command. He rigidly enforced discipline, at all times

and in all things ; and yet, probably, no officer had more entirely the respect, the confidence, and the affectionate regard of all his officers and men."

Upon the news of Major R.'s death reaching Baltimore, a motion was made in the county court, then in session, to adjourn, in consequence of a close relation existing between the leading counsel in the case under consideration and the deceased, which motion was agreed to. Judge Legrand, in his remarks on the event, closed as follows : " Major Ringgold was a citizen of Baltimore, known to us all, to some of us intimately, and by whomsoever, and wheresoever known, recognised as a gentleman of the highest sense of honor, and of the kindliest feelings of which humanity is susceptible. He is gone, but the fame his late brilliant conduct won will hereafter constitute the pride and the history of his country."

We close this brief sketch with an eloquent extract (and we hope not fulsome eulogy) from the Philadelphia North American newspaper, valuing more highly the testimony of those who knew the subject best with regard to his superior qualities as an officer, and amiabilities as a man. " The death of this accomplished officer is a heavy loss to the country. He had been intrusted with the revision of a system of tactics for our army, and devoted much time and study to improving upon the English and French system. His corps was as fine a one as any service could boast. He leaves unfinished, we think, a work which he was preparing, on the utility and practicability of the flying artillery arm in service. Major R.'s constitution was much impaired by his long campaigns in Florida ; but, passionately attached to the profession of arms, he still remained in the army, and died a martyr to his country.

" His death has stricken thousands of hearts, that gush under the blow, with feelings which no ordinary public calamity could have excited. He was generally known and appreciated in this city as the Bayard of the age—the star of the war ; and his career was watched with anxious eyes and hearts. That it would be glorious no one doubted ; but who thought that an orb so bright would sink so early ? The soul of chivalry and honor, accomplished as a soldier, lofty as a patriot, beloved as a man, it demands an agonizing struggle to reconcile us to such a sacrifice. And yet it is a

noble one. In the flash of his fame he has died, as he lived—for his country. The offering was doubtless a glad one. He desired no better fate than such a death; he could leave no richer inheritance than such an example. While we feel as if destiny had robbed the future of the fame which such a nature must have won, we dare not repine that his career has been closed, in its morning, with this sunburst of glory. His memory will be gratefully cherished so long as honor has a victory, freedom a hero, or his country a name."

CHAPTER VIII.

MAJOR BROWN.—COLONEL CROSS, and CAPTAIN WALKER.

THE services MAJOR J. BROWN has rendered his country are too well known to require an extended notice of them here. He was a “Green-mountain boy,”—a native of Vermont,—and entered the American army as a common soldier in the 7th infantry, at the commencement of the war of 1812, at the age of twenty-four or twenty-five. His merit was soon perceived in the active service of the war upon the northern frontier, and quickly won for him an ensign’s commission.

Major Brown was in nearly all the hard-fought battles on the Niagara during the years 1813 and '14. Before the close of the war he obtained a lieutenancy, and from that rose by regular gradations to the rank of major, in which capacity he has served for many years. For some time he filled the office of commissary of subsistence at Council Bluffs, afterwards quartermaster and commissary at St. Louis. At one time he was employed in conducting the tribes of emigrant Indians to the west, and was in active service during the whole period of the war in Florida.

His habits of exact discipline and strict accountability made his services always in request. Possessing the confidence of his superiors, and the good will of those under his command, he was an officer in the proper acceptation of the term.

It is from officers such as these that the country expects substantial benefit to the service—men of tried courage, of patient endurance, of exactness, punctuality, and system, to whom integrity is like an instinct, who have learned their profession well, and known the advantages of discipline in the army, and whose moral characteristics are firmness and perseverance, to the accomplishment of grand or important achievements, and whose shrewdness and judgment were adequate to the task of directing energies required for such service.

In placing Major Brown in command of the works opposite Ma-

tamoras, General Taylor displayed his sagacity in the knowledge of character and officer-like qualities in a comrade in arms, which perhaps his experience and actual observation helped him to foresee. He found also the trust and confidence he reposed in that command, were not misplaced, and the great regret and sorrow is, that that gallant officer should have fallen ere his task should have been successfully acquitted, and the laurel placed upon his brows ; that the army should have lost at this time so valuable an officer, and the country so worthy and efficient a defender.

The bombardment of the fort opposite Matamoras has been described in another place. Major Brown was given the command on the 1st of May, at which time General Taylor set out for Point Isabel. His command consisted of about six hundred men. The bombardment commenced on the 3d, and, on the 6th, at ten o'clock in the morning, a shell which had been thrown from the enemy's battery, in rear of the fort, fell near where commander Brown was standing, bursted, and mangled one of his legs in such a manner as to cause his death three days after, amputation having been performed on the day he was wounded. In honor of the late commander, General Taylor gave the works the designation of "FORT BROWN."

General Taylor, in his official communication, says, "it affords me peculiar pleasure to report that the field-work opposite Matamoras has sustained itself handsomely during a cannonade and bombardment of *one hundred and sixty* hours. But the pleasure is alloyed with profound regret at the loss of its heroic and indomitable commander, Major Brown, who died to-day from the effect of a shell. His loss would be a severe one to the service at any time, but to the army under my orders, it is indeed irreparable."

CAPTAIN MONTGOMERY.—We take pleasure in alluding to the gallant commander of the 8th infantry in connection with these actions, on the 8th and 9th of May, in the strongest terms of commendation. The services rendered by his corps, as represented in the official reports, were the most efficient and important. When the action of the 8th of May commenced, Captain Montgomery was situated on the extreme left, Captain Duncan's battery on his right,

and Lieutenant-colonel Childs with his battalion of artillery on the right of Captain Duncan. All these composing the 1st brigade, under command of Lieutenant-colonel Belknap, moved in this order until the enemy opened his batteries. When the brigade was halted, Captain Duncan advanced with his battery about two hundred yards, which position he held for nearly two hours, keeping up a most destructive fire on the enemy during the time, while Captain Montgomery, with his regiment, supported this flank amidst a galling fire from the enemy's well-aimed artillery.

The firing ceased, and the army was ordered to advance and take position somewhat nearer the enemy; the battalion of artillery taking post in rear and to right of the two eighteen-pounders commanded by Lieutenant Churchill, Captain Duncan's artillery on their left, and Captain Montgomery with 8th infantry on the left and to the rear of Duncan's battery. The enemy was now seen to be moving with the entire cavalry and infantry force of his right wing upon the flank of this line. Captain Duncan was ordered to proceed with all possible dispatch to check this movement, which he did, supported by the 8th infantry. They dashed back to the threatened point with such alacrity and with such bold and brilliant manœuvring as to strike the enemy with dismay, and he pulled up to a halt before a shot had been fired, or the guns unlimbered. They engaged within point-blank range of his small guns, and drove him back with great loss.

A strong body of the enemy's infantry supported by two squadrons of cavalry now debouched from the extreme right point of the chaparral, and moved steadily forward to the attack; one section of the battery opened upon them with round shot and shells so well directed that the whole advance, horse and foot, fell back in disorder to the bushes. This column of the enemy, however, reformed in the chaparral and moved forward a second time, but were driven back by the above corps with even greater success than at first. Their supporting cavalry also abandoned them, and a full retreat was commenced. The advantage was followed up by both sections of the battery, which was made to bear upon the enemy's flying columns, and a brisk and destructive fire was kept up till they disappeared, or darkness put an end to the battle.

On the following day at about three o'clock P. M., the 1st brigade being within one mile of the enemy's position on Resaca de la Palma, Captain Montgomery received orders to move up in company with Duncan's battery, which he did in double quick time. Arriving at the scene of action, he charged the enemy on the right of the road most gallantly, and drove him from his position. He now hastened to follow up the charge of Captain May, of the 2d dragoons, who had previously carried one of the enemy's batteries. Captain Montgomery formed in the road and led his command upon the enemy's battery, which had been retaken by the Mexicans, and executed the movement with such celerity and vigor as to secure it. He now charged along the ravine *between the enemy's two lines*, amidst a heavy fire from the front, left and right, drove the supporting column before him for half a mile, taking the enemy's right and last battery, and destroying him in great numbers. Captain Montgomery pursued vigorously into the chaparral on the opposite side of the ravine, until, from the rapid flight of the enemy, further pursuit was useless.

Captain Montgomery was joined in this charge by Captain Martin Scott, Lieutenants Ruggles and Crittenden, with a command of 5th infantry, as stated in our account of this engagement.

We have thus hurriedly and briefly spoken of the events of these actions in which Captain Montgomery was personally concerned, and we confess they exhibit him and his regiment in a most favorable light. Their position was at all times during the battles one of imminent peril and exposure, and the loss which they sustained is sufficient evidence that they took a most hazardous and active part. The loss in killed and wounded of this regiment, on both days, was *more than one-third the loss of the whole army*.

In the action of the 8th Captain Montgomery's horse was killed under him; and in the charge of the 9th Captain Montgomery was wounded in the shoulder by a grape shot.

Captain Montgomery is a native of Monmouth county, New Jersey, son of James Montgomery, a revolutionary soldier. He graduated at West Point in 1825, was made captain 1838, was stationed at Tampa Bay in 1840, and followed General Taylor to Corpus Christi in the Army of Occupation.

COLONEL CROSS.

COLONEL TRUMAN Cross was a native of Maryland, and son of Colonel Cross of Prince George's County. He commenced life in humble circumstances, but by great industry and application, had won his way to fortune as well as distinction. He served many years under General Jackson in Florida and elsewhere, and was highly esteemed by that distinguished man, than whom few could better judge of qualifications for an office requiring courage and activity. Under that great disciplinarian Col. Cross acquired a knowledge of military tactics that rendered him very useful to the service, and led to distinction of rank. His name is well known in the annals of engagements with the enemy at the south.

He was appointed assistant quartermaster-general, and had proceeded to the Rio Grande with the army of occupation. On the twelfth day after their encamping opposite Matamoras, he rode from camp in company with his little son, and none other, as is supposed. The boy returned, but the father did not. The alarm was given upon his being missed, and parties went out in every direction, and scoured the swamps and chaparrals for considerable distance round about without success, until the search was given over, and it was generally supposed that he had been taken prisoner. General Taylor wrote a letter to Ampudia, the Mexican commander, requesting him to aid in solving the mystery, but also without satisfactory result, and his fate remained in suspense for fourteen days, when his lifeless body was found in a state of mutilation, which left no doubt that he had been attacked and killed by Mexicans.

Whereupon the following order was issued by the commanding general.

"HEAD-QUARTERS, ARMY OF OCCUPATION, }
April 25, 1846. A

"The commanding general has the painful duty of announcing that the doubt which has so long prevailed in regard to the fate of

the late Colonel Cross, has at length been resolved into the melancholy certainty of his death, and, there is too much reason to fear, by violent hands.

"The high rank of the deceased, and the ability and energy which he carried into the discharge of the important duties of his office, will cause his loss to be seriously felt in the service, while the untoward circumstances of his demise will render it peculiarly afflicting to his family and personal friends.

"The remains of the late colonel will be interred with military honors at 4 p. m. to-morrow. The funeral escort will be composed of a squadron of dragoons and eight companies of infantry; the latter to be taken from the 2d Brigade, and the whole to be organized and commanded by Colonel Twiggs. The necessary arrangements for the funeral ceremony will be made by Lieut. Col. Payne, Inspector General.

"By order of

"BRIG. GEN. TAYLOR."

The editor of Niles's National Register thus notices the death of this valuable and brave officer :

"War is a horrible evil. The first victim in this new war into which our country is now plunged, has brought with it a deepening sense of the evils inseparable from the mad conflict of man with man, be the occasion what it may. An acquaintance, formed in early life—a warm and steadfast friend from the commencement of that acquaintance—a generous, open-hearted, ardent, intelligent, and talented man;—one who was in all the attributes a MAN among men, is the first victim. His father, forty years since, through many an ardent struggle, political and national, was shoulder to shoulder with us, in war with arms in his hand, and in peace or war, with as ardent patriotism at heart as ever animated a citizen and a republican. His son is snatched from our hopes, as well as from a wide circle of friends, and from his own wife, now widowed, and left with her orphans to a life—how desolate and lonely ! Wreaths may encircle the brow of victors in the coming contest, but what shall compensate for suffering, of which this is but the type, that must be the price at which they are purchased ?"

CAPTAIN WALKER.

CAPTAIN SAMUEL H. WALKER is a native of Prince George, Maryland, and repaired to Texas from the city of Washington, originally, where he formerly lived. His fearless daring soon distinguished him, in the efforts of the Texans to acquire their independence. He was employed in the expedition against Meir, in 1842, but having adventured into the Mexican territories in advance of the Texans he was taken prisoner with his comrades, and held during the battle of Meir. When the Texans surrendered, he with the rest was marched to Matamoras, and from thence to the castle of Perote, on their way to Mexico. The prisoners for a time were treated with some degree of kindness; but as they advanced into the country, the Mexican officers, under whose charge they were, threw off the restraints which their articles of agreement imposed, and evinced towards them the most unfeeling barbarity.

The Mexican soldiers had repeatedly been allowed to beat them, and the young officers, whose conduct in this respect was widely different from that of their seniors in the Mexican service, treated them with a severity as disgraceful as it was unjust. On reaching Salado, stung to desperation by the cruelty they received, they resolved to rush upon their guards and make their escape;—among the privates foremost in this charge was *Walker*. When the signal was given he seized one of the sentinels at the inner-door of the prison-yard, and Cameron, a gallant Scotchman, who was afterwards by order of the President shot in cold blood, seized the other. Both were disarmed instantly, and the Texans rushed into the outer court, where the arms and cartridge-boxes were guarded by 150 of the Mexican infantry. These were speedily driven out, and while the Texans were arming themselves, the Mexican cavalry and a company of infantry formed in front of the outer gate. The Texans charged through them, killing nine or ten and wounding more, and themselves sustaining a loss of five killed and five wounded. The Texans engaged in this affair numbered 214—the Mexicans 300.

The escaped Texans soon lost their way, became involved in

the mountains, were deceived by false information, reduced to the extremities of hunger and thirst, and finally recaptured by straggling parties. They were again taken to Salado, decimated by order of the commander, Santa Anna, and every tenth man shot!

After passing through some and escaping others of the misfortunes that attended this expedition, he finally escaped from the city of Mexico in company with eight others. This expedition originally consisted of two hundred and sixty-one men. Of these ten were killed at the battle of Meir, and six others subsequently died of wounds received there; five fell at the attack upon the guard at Salado, seventeen were shot at the decimation, five died in the mountains, thirty-five died of suffering and starvation in Mexico, eleven were released through the intervention of ministers, eight wounded at Meir effected their escape, and the remainder, of whom the subject of this sketch was one, escaped from Mexico.

Walker then joined the Texan revenue service, and was an efficient member. But when the army of occupation entered the country on its way to Corpus Christi and Point Isabel, he joined the forces at the head of a company of partisan rangers. Upon arriving at the place of destination, he was placed between Point Isabel and the camp opposite Matamoras, to keep open the communication between them. Learning from the teamsters who had started out from Point Isabel with stores for the camp, that the road was obstructed by the Mexicans, so that they were obliged to return, Captain Walker started out on the morning of the 28th of April, with his whole force, about seventy-five men, to reconnoitre, and if possible open a communication with General Taylor.

He had proceeded about twelve miles, when he fell in with a large body of Mexicans, supposed to be fifteen hundred in number. They appeared very suddenly. A portion of Captain Walker's troops were raw; these he instructed to keep on his right, and gave orders to the whole to retire under cover of a chaparral. But his raw troops, panic-stricken, scattered in confusion. An engagement, however, ensued, which lasted fifteen minutes, in which thirty at least of the enemy fell, as is supposed. Captain Walker was forced to retreat from the overwhelming force that advanced upon him. The enemy pursued him till within range of our guns

at Point Isabel, when they in turn retreated. Captain Walker's loss has never been officially stated.

Captain Walker reached the depot on the same day at night, and so far from being deterred by the disaster he had met with, instantly volunteered, if four men would join him, to proceed to General Taylor's camp at the risk of his life, acquaint him with the situation of affairs at Point Isabel, and bring back any orders he might intrust him with. A communication with General Taylor at this time was the more necessary, as Major Munroe for two days had been expecting an attack on the post of Point Isabel, which he commanded ; and as the transit of stores or intelligence had been interrupted for three days, it was highly important that the commander should be apprized of the situation of affairs, in order that he might take any measures he might think proper in the emergency.

Major Munroe accepted the offer of Captain Walker, and the required number, with two additional, bravely volunteered to accompany him. The enterprise was considered a very hazardous, almost fool-hardy one, but they set out on the next morning, April 29th. They reached Gen. Taylor's camp the next day, and were the first to acquaint the commander of the situation of affairs at Point Isabel ; and he set out the next day with his army to open communication.

On the field of Palo Alto, as will be seen by the account of that battle, he took an active part in repulsing the movement of the Mexican cavalry on our right, in connection with the fifth infantry, and a section of Major Ringgold's battery under Lieutenant Ridgley. Also in the engagement of Resaca de la Palma he did valuable service, for an account of which the reader is referred to the details of that battle. General Taylor, in his dispatch, says : " In this connection I would mention the services of Captain Walker, of the Texas rangers, who was in both affairs, with his company, and who has performed very meritorious services as a spy and partisan." For his gallantry on the Rio Grande Walker has been appointed CAPTAIN in the United States army.

After the capture of Matamoras, Captain Walker was sent out with a company of dragoons to observe the Mexican army on their retreat. In this scout he had a skirmish with the vanguard of the enemy, in which he killed several, and took twenty-five prisoners.

CHAPTER IX.

CAPTAIN MAY, AND LIEUTENANT RIDGLEY.

CAPTAIN C. A. MAY is an officer of intrepid valor, and in the engagements of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma he rendered valuable service to our cause, in the last of which battles he captured La Vega, one of the Mexican generals, in almost as hazardous a position as he secured PHILIP, a Seminole chief, in the Florida war. Previous to the collision of the two armies he was stationed at Point Isabel, and made himself useful in reconnoitring the enemy, and actually passed round the Mexican camp on the 4th with his squadron, while on the field of Palo Alto.

General Taylor left Point Isabel with his whole army on the 7th May, and bivouacked seven miles distant that night. The next day, after proceeding about five miles, the Mexican forces appeared in view, in large numbers, and at one o'clock the line of battle was formed on the field of Palo Alto. Captain May's regiment was posted on the right, Captain M.'s squadron under the immediate orders of the general commanding, and subsequently detached to support Captain Duncan's battery, which had been thrown forward in advance of the line, and was doing good execution. We, however, subjoin Captain May's report, which describes the part he took, though modestly stated, in both engagements.

DRAGOON CAMP, RESACA DE LA PALMA, }
On the battle-ground, May 10th, 1846. }

"SIR,—Having been detached from the head-quarters of my regiment with my squadron, and acting under the immediate orders of the commanding-general during the actions of the 8th and 9th instant, it becomes my duty to report the services which the squadron I had the honor to command rendered during these actions.

"You are aware that my first orders on the 8th were to strengthen the left flank of the army and sustain Captain Duncan's battery; in this position I lost two horses killed and two wounded.

"About half an hour before sunset I received orders to proceed

to the enemy's left flank and drive in his cavalry. In execution of these orders, and while passing the General and his staff, the enemy concentrated the fire from their batteries upon us, killing six of my horses and wounding five men. I succeeded in gaining a position on the enemy's left with a view of charging his cavalry, but found him in such force as to render ineffectual a charge from my small command, and therefore returned, in obedience to my instructions, to my first position, where I remained until the close of the action, which terminated very shortly afterwards. Thus ended the service of my squadron on the 8th.

"On the morning of the 9th my squadron was actively employed in reconnoitring the chaparral in advance of the field of the 8th, and on the advance of the army I took my position as the advance-guard. When about half a mile from the position which the enemy were reported to have taken, I was ordered to halt and allow the artillery and infantry to pass, and await further orders. I remained in this position about three quarters of an hour, when I received orders to report with my squadron to the General. I did so, and was ordered by the General to charge the enemy's batteries and drive them from their pieces, which was rapidly executed, with loss of Lieutenant Inge, seven privates, and eighteen horses killed, and Sergeant Muley, nine privates, and ten horses wounded. Lieutenant Sackett and Sergeant Story, in the front by my side, had their horses killed under them, and Lieutenant Inge was gallantly leading his platoon when he fell. We charged entirely through the enemy's batteries of seven pieces—Captain Graham, accompanied by Lieutenants Winship and Pleasonton, leading the charge against the pieces on the left of the road, and myself, accompanied by Lieutenants Inge, Stevens, and Sackett, those on the direct road, and gained the rising ground on the opposite side of the ravine. The charge was made under a heavy fire of the enemy's batteries, which accounts for my great loss. After gaining the rising ground in the rear I could rally but six men, and with these I charged their gunners, who had regained their pieces, drove them off, and took prisoner General Vega, whom I found gallantly fighting in person at his battery. I ordered him to surrender, and on recognising me as an officer, he handed me his sword. I brought him,

under a heavy fire of their infantry, to our lines, accompanied by Lieutenant Stevens and a sergeant of my squadron. I then directed Lieutenant Stevens to conduct him in safety to our rear, and present his sword to the commanding general.

"From this time until the enemy were routed, I was engaged in collecting my men, who had become scattered in our lines. I succeeded in assembling half of my squadron, and joined the army in pursuit of the enemy, until he crossed the Rio Grande, from which I returned to camp.

"I cannot speak in terms of sufficient praise of the steadiness and gallantry of the officers and men of my command. They all behaved with that spirit of courage and noble daring which distinguished the whole army in this memorable action, and achieved the most brilliant victory of the age.

"I have the honor to be, &c.

"C. A. MAY,

"Captain 2d Dragoons, commanding 2d squadron.

"LIEUTENANT McDONALD, Adjutant 2d Dragoons."

For the personal history of Captain May we have scanty material. He is a native of the city of Washington, son of Dr. May of that place. "On organizing the second regiment of dragoons, during General Jackson's administration, he was among those who, from civil life, received a commission as lieutenant in the corps, and was ordered to Florida, where the regiment was subjected to severe active service against the Seminoles, and the lieutenant was intrusted with many responsible duties. One of those led him into a personal rencontre with the celebrated chief of the tribe, PHILIP, whose camp a charge was made upon, and who was knocked down and secured by Lieutenant May, at the moment he was raising his rifle to shoot the daring young officer."

An anecdote is related, for the occurrence of which we cannot vouch: On the 9th, when the charge was about to be made on the Mexican battery, General Taylor, in passing his lines, accosted Captain May.

"Sir," said he, "your command has done nothing yet. You must take that battery."

"Men," said Captain May, "we must take that battery ! Charge!"

The result is known. He was mounted on his favorite charger, "Tom," the same on which he made the charge upon Philip's camp, and who now received a severe wound. The second dragoons at the charge comprised seventy men and officers, of whom nine were killed and eleven wounded ; and of the horses, twenty-six were killed and ten wounded.

Having made the charge, they rode over the battery, wheeled and came through the enemy's lines, while the fire of the infantry was so deadly in its effect as to carry all before it. Captain May made a cut at an officer as he charged through, and on returning he found him standing between the cannon wheels, fighting like a hero. He ordered him to surrender. He inquired if he was an officer. Captain May answered him in the affirmative, when he presented his sword, saying, " You receive General Vega a prisoner of war."

Captain May is represented as presenting a very whimsical and eccentric appearance—"with a beard extending to his breast, and hair to his shoulders, which, as he cuts through the wind on his charger, streams out in all directions. His gait on foot is awkward, and that of his horse (an immense one) is the rack of a Canadian pony."

LIEUTENANT RIDGLEY.

RANDOLPH RIDGLEY is a Marylander, and son of General Charles Sterret Ridgley, of Elkridge, Anne Arundel county, Maryland. He belongs to the third artillery, and in the battle of the 9th May did most valuable service with his light-artillery battery, commanded, before he fell, by Major Ringgold. The manner in which he took his battery into action on the commencement of that battle, and the skill and bravery with which he managed it, raised him high in the estimation of the army.

At the commencement of the action on the 8th, after having advanced to within six hundred yards of the enemy's lines, and open-

ing his battery with dreadful execution, Lieutenant Ridgley was detached from Major Ringgold with a section, consisting of two pieces, to operate with the fifth infantry, which had been sent forward to oppose a flank movement of the enemy making on the right of our army. He had already lost one man and two horses. Upon taking his position on the right of the fifth, who were in square, he at once unlimbered and commenced firing. The effect of his fire was tremendous, and he very shortly saw the enemy's artillery and cavalry, which was in large force, particularly the latter, retiring. His fire proved effective in frustrating this grand movement of the enemy. Brevet second-lieutenant French had the immediate charge of one of the pieces. Lieutenant Ridgley continued changing his position from point to point until dark, when he encamped, and then learned the melancholy intelligence that Major Ringgold had been mortally wounded.

The engagement of the 9th on the field of Resaca de la Palma was opened upon our side by Lieutenant Ridgley's battery. He was ordered to the front with his battery, and Captain Walker with his rangers was sent to point out the exact position. After moving very cautiously for a short distance, Lieutenant Ridgley discovered the Mexicans about four hundred yards in advance in the road, and almost instantly their artillery opened. He then moved rapidly to the front for about one hundred yards and returned their fire, which was kept up very spiritedly on both sides for some time, the two batteries firing canister and grape at each other when not more than one hundred yards apart.

As soon as the enemy's fire slackened, Lieutenant Ridgley limbered up and moved rapidly forward, never unlimbering unless seeing them in front, or perceiving from the fire of their infantry they were on his flanks. After having advanced in this manner about five hundred yards, Captain May, second dragoons, rode up, and said to Lieutenant Ridgley, "Where are they? I am going to charge." Lieutenant Ridgley gave them a volley to point the way, and Captain May dashed gallantly forward, in columns of fours, at the head of his squadron. Lieutenant Ridgley followed quickly at a gallop, only halting when he came upon the edge of a ravine, where he found three pieces of artillery, *but no cannoniers*;

however, their infantry poured into him a galling fire at from twenty-five to fifty paces; and here ensued a most desperate struggle, but our infantry coming up they were completely routed. Their cavalry came so near that at one time Lieutenant Ridgley cut at them with his sabre.

On the occasion we have just related, Lieutenant Ridgley's company was the only artillery used, but were sadly deficient in men, so that the officers, during the greater portion of the engagement, and always when closely pressed, had to perform the duties of not only one but two cannoniers, handling their own shot and firing their own pieces.

For his gallantry in these engagements the citizens of Howard District, Maryland, forwarded to Lieutenant Ridgley an elegant sword. He has also been appointed assistant adjutant-general, with brevet rank of *captain*.

CHAPTER X.

Movement of the Army of Occupation from Corpus Christi.—All matters connected with the Campaign to the time of the enemy's crossing.

In September General Taylor established his head-quarters at Corpus Christi. But this was intended as a temporary rendezvous, as the position is far in the rear of the legitimate boundary of Texas, but a permanent depot was calculated upon as advantageous and secure, as its distance from the Rio Grande was a security against surprise by any hostile movement of the Mexicans, while its location on the sea-shore furnished the best facilities for the disembarking of troops and landing munitions of war.

Remaining here nearly six months, during which time some regiments of regular troops were received, General Taylor sent scouts forward to the Rio Grande to make discovery of a suitable position for encamping the army permanently. These scouts returned in the latter part of February, and reported favorably with regard to Point Isabel as a place for a general depot.

In the fore part of March, the army began to move from Corpus Christi for the Rio Grande, and on the 8th of this month General Taylor issued his proclamation and orders concerning his evacuation of the present encampment. The distance to be accomplished was one hundred and nineteen miles, which, owing to the swampy state of the country, was a task of considerable hardship, at a season of the year too when the alluvial soil was completely saturated with water. Two reconnoitring detachments, commanded by Captain Hardee and Lieutenant Hamilton, preceded the movement. They approached the Rio Grande opposite Brazos Santiago, via Isla del Padre, the other by the old Matamoras road, near Sal Colorado.

General Mejia, in command at Matamoras, on hearing of their approach, mustered every soldier there, and crossed the *Rio Grande* in person, under the impression that he should meet the advance of the army. He marched as far as the Colorado creek, with all

possible dispatch, having under his command about seven hundred and fifty men, when, now sixty or seventy miles from Matamoras, he learned these detachments had returned to the camp at Corpus Christi. His rage may be imagined, and is described in a letter from Matamoras as excessive, and beyond bounds, he having expected to win a wreath of laurels before his return. The Mexican force at this time on the frontier was about two thousand soldiers and five hundred rancheros; under Generals Canales, Mejia, Garcia, Saveriego, and La Vega. General Garcia was stationed at Point Isabel, with about two hundred and eighty men, mostly infantry and artillery.

General Taylor advanced ahead of his army, with a company of dragoons under Colonel Twiggs, and reached Point Isabel on the 24th of March, the fleet of transports arriving at the same time. Isabel is a bluff or promontory of sixty feet elevation, on the north side of the Rio Grande, a few miles below the Mexican city of Matamoras, which is situated upon the southern side of that river. When near Point Isabel with the dragoons, General Taylor was met by thirty or forty men, bearing a proclamation and message from General Mejia, protesting against invasion, and gaseonading of defence. At the same moment, the conflagration of the custom-house, and several buildings at Point Isabel, which Rodriguez, the commandant, had set fire to on the approach of the fleet of transports, was discovered. General Taylor dismissed the deputation, informing them that he would reply to General Mejia in four days, opposite to Matamoras. Rodriguez was pursued some distance, but made good his retreat to the river.

On the 26th, General Taylor set out from Point Isabel, leaving one company of artillery under command of Major Munroe, and proceeded for the army opposite Matamoras, a distance of twenty-eight miles, arriving the next day. On the 28th March, the forces, numbering about three thousand five hundred, encamped, while the Mexicans were drawn up upon the opposite bank of the stream, making a great display of martial music, trumpets, flags, etc., which music was responded to from the American lines, so as to be distinctly heard, for the distance was not above two hundred and fifty yards.

On the next morning, the American troops discovered the Mexi-

can artillery of eighteen-pounders lining the opposite bank, and pointing directly into their camp. Of this battery, General Taylor took no notice.

Matters remained thus for several days, the Mexicans manifesting great anger, but no open assault. Upon one occasion, General Worth crossed the river with a dispatch from General Taylor, but they would not permit him to enter the town, nor would General Mejia receive him, but sent one of his officers, with the message that he would not receive personally any officer but the commanding-general himself. General Worth did not deliver the dispatch. In this interview General Worth made General de la Vega the following terse reply : "It is an easy matter for Mexico to determine when and where the war shall commence, but it would remain for the United States to determine when and where it should terminate."

On the 11th of April General Ampudia marched into Matamoras with one thousand cavalry and fifteen hundred infantry ; and on the next day he notified General Taylor to break up his camp within twenty-four hours, and retire to the eastern bank of the Nueces. This notification was of a threatening character, and was regarded by General Taylor as of a belligerent nature. He accordingly instructed the military commander at the Brazos to consider the Mexican army as in a hostile attitude. Two Mexican vessels from New Orleans were daily expected to arrive with stores and supplies for the troops at Matamoras, and General Taylor ordered the commander at Brazos to seize them when they reached that place.

To the notification of General Ampudia, General Taylor replied, that he had been instructed by the President of the United States to occupy the territory east of the Rio Grande. He came there, he said, without any hostile intention, either towards the government or the people of Mexico, but any attempt to dislodge him would be repelled by force ; and furthermore, that if General Ampudia attempted to cross the river, it would be considered a hostile act, and resisted as such.

The greater portion of the inhabitants upon the east side of the river, crossed over to Matamoras, from the representations made

by the Mexican officers that the American army would inevitably be destroyed, and that they would share the same fate, but this did not prevent the army being abundantly supplied with provisions, for there were facilities of procuring them when they were not furnished from the other side.

The American army experienced considerable annoyance from the great number of desertions that took place, and so short was the distance to the enemy's camp, that they could effect their intentions with great ease and safety, and escape beyond the possibility of capture. The most frequent mode was by swimming the stream. Several attempts had been made to put a stop to this business without effect, when it was resolved to resort to the last and disagreeable alternative of shooting such as should attempt to escape, if other means failed. Among those that next made the attempt to swim the river, two were killed by the picket, and this effectually put a stop to desertions.

General Taylor set about erecting ramparts and trausses, employing fifteen hundred men constantly, to render his position secure against an attacking force. One regiment was also kept day and night on the move, guarding the crossings of the river, from indications, it appearing evident that the Mexicans entertained the idea of commencing hostilities in some shape. On the 12th a prisoner was taken by the picket, who stated upon questioning, that the Mexicans were going to cross the river at a certain point on the next day. General Taylor sent a detachment of troops to the fording early the next morning.

About this time the camp was thrown into consternation and gloom at the sudden disappearance of Colonel Cross, United States quartermaster-general. Troops were sent out at once, and all exertions made to ascertain his fate; but, until twelve days had expired, it was generally presumed that he had been taken prisoner and was in safety. At the end of that period, he was found where he had been murdered, probably by a band of rancheros. This was the first life lost in the Army of Occupation, and was soon followed by the attack upon and killing of Lieutenant Porter and three others. Lieutenant Porter had gone with a party of twelve men to reconnoitre, when, on the third day, he was attacked by a

party of Mexicans, fired upon and killed. On the next morning, a troop of thirty dragoons was dispatched to the spot, but his body, or those of his comrades, two in number, could not be found. Lieutenant Porter was of the 3d regiment of infantry, son of the late Commodore Porter, and had but recently been married to a daughter of Major Benjamin Lloyd Beall, late commander of Fort Washita, where he had left his lady.

The following extract of a letter from General Taylor explains the state of his defences and the position of affairs on the 25th April, prior to the attack of the Mexicans upon Captains Hardee and Thornton :

" Strong guards of foot and mounted men are established on the margin of the river, and thus efficient means have been adopted on our part to prevent all intercourse. While opposite to us their pickets extend above and below for several miles, we are equally active in keeping up a strong and vigilant guard to prevent surprise, or attacks under disadvantageous circumstances. This is the more necessary, while we are to act on the defensive, and they are at liberty to take the opposite course whenever they think proper to do so. Nor have we been idle in other respects ; we have a field-work under way, besides having erected a strong battery, and a number of buildings for the security of our supplies, in addition to some respectable works for their protection. We have mounted a respectable battery, four pieces of which are long eighteen-pounders, with which we could batter or burn down the city of Matamoras should it become necessary to do so. When our field-work is completed—which will soon be the case—and mounted with its proper armament, five hundred men could hold it against as many thousand Mexicans. During the twenty-seven days since our arrival here, a most singular state of things has prevailed all through the outlines of the two armies, which, to a certain extent, have all the feelings as if there were actual war.

" Fronting each other, for an extent of more than two miles, and within musket range, are batteries shotted, and the officers and men, in many instances, waiting impatiently for orders to apply the matches ; yet nothing has been done to provoke the firing of a gun or any act of violence.

"Matamoras, at the distance we are now from it, appears to cover a large extent of ground, with some handsome buildings, but I would imagine the greater portion of them to be indifferent one-story houses, with roofs of straw, and walls of mud or unburnt brick. During peace the population is said to be five or six thousand, but it is now filled to overflowing with troops. Report says from five to ten thousand of all sorts, regular and militia. The number, I presume, is very much overrated.

"P. S.—Since writing the above an engagement has taken place between a detachment of our cavalry and the Mexicans, in which we are worsted. So the war has actually commenced, and the hardest must fend off.

"Yours, &c.

"Z. TAYLOR."

CHAPTER XI.

Captain Thornton's Expedition.—Principal Events to the leaving of General Taylor for Point Isabel.—Bombardment of Fort Brown.

In the last chapter we made allusion to intelligence being received, through a prisoner, that the Mexicans were about to cross the Rio Grande, and that a squadron of dragoons was ordered to proceed to the spot. The prisoner was to act as guide. On the same day General Taylor's spies brought in news that a large body of Mexicans had crossed the river to the Texas side, above the American fort, and that about fifteen hundred had also crossed below. The squadron of dragoons under the guidance of the Mexican prisoner was commanded by Captain Thornton, and sent to the crossing above the camp, while Captain Kerr was dispatched with a squadron below; both for the purpose of reconnoitring the enemy's position.

Captain Thornton's command consisted of Captain Hardee, Lieutenants Kane and Mason, with sixty-one privates and non-commissioned officers. They had proceeded about twenty-six miles, and to within a mile or two of the Mexican camp, when they were surprised and surrounded by a large body of the enemy, who commenced firing upon them. Lieutenant George Mason, with nine men, were killed, and two wounded. Captains Thornton and Hardee, and Lieutenant Kane, escaped, and subsequently surrendered themselves with the non-commissioned officers and privates prisoners of war.

It was now certain that the Mexicans had crossed the Rio Grande in large numbers, and for the purpose of ejecting the American army from the position it had assumed. General Taylor, therefore, immediately subsequent to the attack upon Thornton's command, advised the department at Washington that hostilities had commenced, and dispatched a messenger with requisitions upon the governors of Texas and Louisiana for volunteers—upon the former for twenty companies of foot riflemen, and upon the latter for four regiments of infantry.

General Arista had superseded Ampudia in the command of the Mexican forces, and it was upon this change that the first act of violation was committed by them; he having previously, however, notified General Taylor that *he* "considered hostilities had commenced, and he should prosecute them."

From the capture of Thornton's command all communication was cut off from Point Isabel with General Taylor's camp for three days. This was a most serious misfortune, as the entire stores of the army, with the exception of eight days' rations at the camp, opposite Matamoras, were at this place, and the prospect of re-establishing a communication was most discouraging, so large a body of Mexican troops, under Arista himself, had been interposed with this especial object in view, as was probable, (and which afterwards appeared by Arista's dispatches.)

Point Isabel was also daily in expectation of being attacked. Major Munroe commanded here with a force of four hundred and fifty men. The ordnance consisted of sixteen brass six-pounders, two long eighteen, and two ship's guns for artillery. The supply of powder and balls of all kinds was ample, and provisions and water in abundance, so that it was calculated an opposing force of four times their number could be successfully resisted for any length of time. In addition, the masters and crews of vessels in the harbor volunteered, and mustered to the number of five hundred men, went ashore, and remained under arms.

On the 28th, Captain Walker, of the Texan rangers volunteers, left his camp between Point Isabel and Matamoras with seventy-five men, to reconnoitre, having learned a large Mexican force was on the road. He encountered one thousand five hundred Mexicans, (as he supposes,) with whom he had an engagement of fifteen minutes. On his return to Point Isabel he volunteered with almost incredible boldness to attempt to carry a communication to General Taylor; and on the 29th he set out with four men, and succeeded in reaching the camp of the commanding general.

General Taylor's situation at this time was a critical one. His supply of provisions in camp was sufficient for only eight days, his stores and munitions were at Point Isabel, twenty-seven miles distant, and all communication, between the camp and depot, he had

good reason to believe, had been closed by the enemy. Upon the arrival of Captain Walker, therefore, and learning the state of affairs on the route, he resolved to set out in person, with the greater part of his force, and endeavor to effect a transit of supplies. He had nearly completed his defences opposite Matamoras. The *citadel* of the position, an irregular hexagon, with bastioned fronts, and a capacity to receive twelve hundred men, though it might be defended with five hundred, he considered sufficient to sustain a regular assault for at least ten days from disciplined troops and scientific approach from trenches. Intrusting the works to the command of Major BROWN, with the seventh regiment of infantry under Captain Lowd, and two companies of artillery under Lieutenant Braggs, in all about six hundred men, General Taylor set out with the remainder of his force, on the 1st day of May, for Point Isabel.

So soon as the Mexican commander learned that a large part of the American forces had been withdrawn from the fort opposite Matamoras, (now Fort Brown,) he opened his batteries in the town with seven guns. This was on the morning of the 3d May. The fire was promptly responded to by the American battery. After a brisk fire of fifteen minutes from the eighteen-pounders, the Mexican fort was silenced, two of their guns supposed to have been dismounted.

A fire was then commenced from the Mexican lower fort, and a mortar battery, which was kept up without intermission until half-past seven o'clock. The cannonade from these positions was continued occasionally until midnight, during which time the Mexicans exhausted some twelve or fifteen hundred shot, but with very little effect.

On the morning of the 6th May, Major Brown, the commanding officer, was mortally wounded by the bursting of a shell, while standing near Captain Mansfield, directing the operations of that corps of engineers.

Upon Major Brown receiving the wound that terminated fatally, three days afterwards, Captain Hawkins, of the seventh infantry, assumed command. This took place at 10 o'clock on the morning of the 6th, and large mounted parties of infantry were then seen in

the rear. Towards evening the enemy opened fire from town with one mortar, and with two mortars from the rear; and at half-past 10 o'clock, some infantry crept up in a ravine and fired musketry, but being out of range, the fire was not returned. Lieutenant Bragg, at 10 o'clock the next morning, fired several rounds of canister from his battery upon parties of mounted men and infantry that seemed to surround the rear, which dispersed them, but brought forth a shower of shells, which lasted incessantly until half-past 11 o'clock, and ceased. Between this and half-past 4 P. M., five shells were thrown, at which time a white flag was shown at some old buildings in the rear, and a parley sounded by the enemy. Two Mexican officers advanced, and were met by two of Captain Hawkins' command, who received and took to Captain Hawkins a communication from General Arista, commanding Hawkins to surrender the fort, and allowing one hour to reply.

Upon the receipt of this document, the commander of Fort Brown called a council of his officers, having command of the different companies, and upon consultation agreed unanimously upon sending the following reply:

HEAD QUARTERS, UNITED STATES FORCES,
Near Matamoras, May 6, 1846, 3 o'clock, p. m.

“Sir,—Your humane communication has just been received, and after the consideration due to its importance, I must respectfully decline to surrender my forces to you.

“The exact purport of your dispatch I cannot feel confident that I understand, as my interpreter is not skilled in your language; but if I have understood you correctly, you have my reply above.

“I am, sir, respectfully,

“Your obedient servant,

“E. S. HAWKINS,

“Commanding U. S. Forces opposite Matamoras.

“GENERAL M. ARISTA,
“Commanding Division of the North.”

When this reply was received by the Mexican general, he opened his batteries with a continual shower of shot and shells until sunset,

when it ceased. The night passed quietly, but the utmost vigilance was exercised by the American commander, and every man was kept at his post, as it was confidently expected that an attack more severe than the others would be made in the morning. At daylight the next morning the enemy's batteries opened with shells, but continued but a short time, and was renewed at intervals, with canister and grape, until half-past two o'clock, p. m., when a regular bombardment with shot and shells, from a howitzer and the mortars, commenced, and was kept up until sunset.

Dark setting in, Captain Mansfield, of the Engineer Corps, was sent out with one hundred men to level the traverse thrown up by General Worth on the bank of the river, to prevent the use of it by the enemy to fire into the fort, which he accomplished by midnight, at which time a random fire of musketry commenced all around, which lasted until daylight, when the enemy's batteries were again opened with shells from the sand-bag battery and from the lower fort.

The bombarding was kept up during the day with great ferocity, some part of the time mortars being at play upon the little fort from the north, south, and west, at the same instant. This was the 8th of May, and at half-past two o'clock the cannonading from the field of Palo Alto was heard. This created an intense excitement in the fort, as it was supposed to proceed from an engagement between the Mexican and American forces, and the most alarming results were feared, from the known superiority of the enemy's forces.

During this day Captain Hawkins is of opinion they received from one hundred and fifty to two hundred shells, and from seventy-five to one hundred round shot, *and not a man was disabled*. The next day, at 2 o'clock p. m., Major Brown died, and soon after the firing was heard from Resaca de la Palma, which announced a re-engagement between General Taylor and the enemy. The enemy raised the siege at about six o'clock this day, and beat a retreat.

CHAPTER XII.

BATTLE OF PALO ALTO.

GENERAL TAYLOR reached Point Isabel on the 2d of May, without having seen a Mexican on his way. On the day following, he heard the cannonading, by the assault on Fort Brown, with some concern, but no scouts reported any intelligence of importance until the 4th, when Captain May, with a squadron of dragoons returned to Point Isabel, with reports that a heavy force was encamped on the road, twelve miles below Matamoras, whose camp he passed around; and this intelligence was confirmed the next day, the 5th, by scouts that came in, saying that the chaparral was lined with sentinels everywhere.

The firing was still heard at the fort, and General Taylor made dispositions to commence his return march on the next day, the 6th, with an ample train of baggage-wagons, loaded with stores for the army. Whether the Mexican commander had concentrated his forces so as to assail the camp opposite Matamoras in rear as well as in front, during the absence of the army—whether the works were found capable of sustaining the assault that had been made—or whether the great body of Mexicans would take advantage of the defiles and chaparrals upon the route he was about himself to enter, with so cumbrous a train of baggage, was matter of total uncertainty.

May 6th, Captain Walker arrived with dispatches from Major Brown's camp, and reported the particulars detailed in last chapter. Major Brown was reserving his ammunition, and thus far all was safe there. These assurances of Captain Walker determined General Taylor to postpone his departure, in hopes that additional forces would arrive within a short time at Point Isabel, for the security of that important station, as well as to augment the effective force with which he would soon be ready to encounter the enemy.

Nothing further of importance took place until the evening of the 7th of May, when the main body of the army of occupation

moved from Point Isabel, under the immediate orders of General Taylor, and bivouacked seven miles distant.

The march was resumed the following morning. About noon, when the advance of cavalry had reached the water-hole of "Palo Alto," the Mexican troops were reported in front, and were soon discovered occupying the road in force. General Taylor ordered a halt upon reaching the water, with a view to rest and refresh the men, and form deliberately the line of battle. The Mexican line was now plainly visible across the prairie, and about three-quarters of a mile distant. Their left, which was composed of a heavy force of cavalry, occupied the road, resting upon a thicket of chaparral, while masses of infantry were discovered in succession on the right, greatly outnumbering the American force.

The line of battle was now formed in the following order, commencing on the extreme right: Fifth infantry, commanded by Lieutenant-colonel McIntosh; Major Ringgold's artillery; third infantry, commanded by Captain L. N. Morris; two eighteen-pounders, commanded by Lieutenant Churchill, third artillery; fourth infantry, commanded by Major G. W. Allen; the third and fourth regiments composed the third brigade, under the command of Lieutenant-colonel Garland; and all the above corps, together with two squadrons of dragoons under Captains Ker and May, composed the right wing, under the orders of Colonel Twiggs. The left was formed by the battalion of artillery commanded by Lieutenant-colonel Childs, Captain Duncan's light artillery, and the eighth infantry, under Captain Montgomery—all forming the first brigade, under command of Lieutenant-colonel Belknap. The train was packed near the water, under direction of Captains Crossman and Myers, and protected by Captain Ker's squadron.

At two o'clock General Taylor took up the march by heads of columns, in the direction of the enemy—the eighteen-pounder battery following the road. While the columns were advancing Lieut. Blake, topographical engineers, volunteered a reconnaissance of the enemy's line, which was handsomely performed, and resulted in the discovery of at least two batteries of artillery in the intervals of their cavalry and infantry. These batteries were soon opened upon the Americans; when Gen. Taylor ordered the columns halted and de-

ployed into line, and the fire to be returned by all his artillery. The eighth infantry on the extreme left was thrown back to secure that flank. The first fires of the enemy did little execution, while our eighteen-pounders, and Major Ringgold's artillery soon dispersed the cavalry, while his left, Captain Duncan's battery, thrown forward in advance of the line, was doing good execution at this time. Captain May's squadron was now detached to support that battery, and the left of our position. The Mexican cavalry, with two pieces of artillery, were now reported to be moving through the chaparral to our right, to threaten that flank, or make a demonstration against the train. The fifth infantry was immediately detached to check this movement, and, supported by Lieut. Ridgley, with a section of Major Ringgold's battery and Captain Walker's company of volunteers, effectually repulsed the enemy—the fifth infantry repelling a charge of lancers, and the artillery doing great execution in their ranks. The third infantry was now detached to the right as a still further security to that flank yet threatened by the enemy. Major Ringgold, with the remaining section, kept up his fire from an advanced position and was supported by the fourth infantry.

The grass of the prairie had been accidentally fired by our artillery, and the volumes of smoke now partially concealed the armies from each other. As the enemy's left had evidently been driven back, and left the road free, as the cannonade had been suspended, the American General ordered forward the eighteen-pounders on the road, nearly to the position first occupied by the Mexican cavalry, and caused the first brigade to take up a new position still on the left of the eighteen-pounder battery. The fifth infantry was advanced from its former position, and occupied a point on the extreme right of the new line. The enemy made a change of position corresponding to our own, and after a suspension of nearly an hour the action was resumed.

The fire of the artillery was now most destructive—openings were constantly made through the enemy's ranks by our fire : and the constancy with which the Mexican infantry sustained this severe cannonade was a theme of universal remark and admiration. Captain May's squadron was detached to make a demonstration on the left of the enemy's position, and suffered severely from the fire

of artillery to which it was for some time exposed. The fourth infantry, which had been ordered to support the eighteen-pounder battery, was exposed to a most galling fire of artillery, by which several men were killed, and Captain Page dangerously wounded. The enemy's fire was directed against our 18-pounder battery, and the guns under Major Ringgold in its vicinity. The major himself, while coolly directing the fire of his pieces, was struck by a cannon ball, and mortally wounded.

In the mean time the battalion of artillery under Lieutenant-colonel Childs had been brought up to support the artillery on our right. A strong demonstration of cavalry was now made by the enemy against this part of our line, and the column continued to advance under a severe fire from the eighteen-pounders. The battalion was instantly formed in square, and held ready to receive the charge of cavalry; but when the advanced squadrons were within close range, a deadly fire of canister from the eighteen-pounders dispersed them. A brisk fire of small arms was now opened upon the square, by which Lieutenant Luther of second artillery was slightly wounded; but a well-directed volley from the front of the square silenced all further firing from the enemy in this quarter. It was now nearly dark, and the action was closed on the right of the American line; the enemy having been completely driven back from his position, and foiled in every attempt against our line.

While the above was going forward on our right, the enemy had made a serious attempt against the left of our line. Captain Duncan, with his usual quickness of perception, discovered and communicated to Lieutenant Belknap, commanding the brigade, the fact that the enemy was moving the entire cavalry and infantry force of his right wing upon our train in rear of the left of our line of battle, and that his battery could produce a more destructive effect upon the enemy by taking position further to the left. He was ordered to proceed to the threatened point with all possible dispatch, and hold the enemy in check until the eighth infantry could come up to his support. The battery dashed back to the left flank in full view of the enemy, and engaged him within point-blank range of his small guns. So sudden and unexpected was

this movement to the enemy, who a moment before saw this battery disappear in the opposite direction behind the smoke of the burning prairie, that his whole column of cavalry pulled up to a halt before a shot had been fired or the guns unlimbered.

A strong body of the enemy's infantry, supported by two squadrons of cavalry, now debouched from the extreme right point of the chaparral, and moved steadily forward to the attack; one section of the battery opened upon them with round shot, shells, and spherical case, so well directed that the whole advance, horse and foot, fell back in disorder to the bushes; the other section in the mean time played into the masses of cavalry that had halted at the right of the guns before mentioned. Although these shot were well directed, and each made an opening through an entire squadron, this part of the enemy's line stood unshaken.

The column of cavalry and infantry driven back in the chaparral by the other section, reformed there, and moved forward a second time to the attack with great regularity. After they advanced about one hundred yards from the chaparral, the section before ordered to drive them back again, opened, and drove them with even greater success than before. They fell back pell-mell to the bushes and commenced their retreat; their supporting cavalry abandoned them, rushed back upon the head of the columns that had before withstood our shot, and a flight commenced; squadron after squadron took it up, and the entire right wing of the enemy was in full retreat. Both sections were now brought to bear upon the enemy's broken and flying columns, and a brisk and destructive fire kept up till they disappeared in the chaparral, or darkness put an end to the battle.

This battery, under the skilful management of Captain Duncan, and with the aid of the 8th infantry, commanded by Captain Montgomery, and Captain Ker's squadron of dragoons, was of immense service, at this peculiar crisis, on our left line, and to the successful result of the battle. They at first gallantly held the enemy at bay, and finally drove him from the field with great loss. This terminated the action, and our army bivouacked on the ground it occupied, while that of the Mexicans retired into the chaparral, in rear of their position.

The American force engaged in this battle is reported by General Taylor to have been 177 officers, and 2,111 men—in all 2,288. The Mexican force, according to the statements of their own officers, taken prisoners on the following day, was not less than six thousand regular troops, with ten pieces of artillery—the irregular force not known. Their loss is estimated by Arista, the commander-in-chief, in his hasty dispatch, at two hundred and fifty-two killed, wounded, and dispersed ; and by General Taylor at not less than two hundred killed and four hundred wounded, made upon the actual number counted upon the field, and the reports of their own officers. But the loss of the enemy was far greater even than this.

CHAPTER XIII.

BATTLE OF RESACA DE LA PALMA.

ON the morning of the 9th of May the Mexicans were discovered from the position occupied by the American army on the field of Palo Alto since the close of the battle the day previous, moving by their left flank from the ground occupied by them during the night, evidently in retreat, and as was thought to gain a new position on the road to Matamoras, and there again resist the advance of our army with the stores. General Taylor ordering the supply-train to be strongly parked at its position, leaving with it four pieces of artillery, and sending the wounded officers and men back to Point Isabel, moved forward with the columns to the edge of the chaparral or forest, which extends to the Rio Grande, a distance of seven miles. The command of Captain McCall, fourth infantry, consisting of the light companies of the first brigade under Captain C. T. Smith, Captain Walker with his Texas Rangers, detachment of artillery and infantry under Captain McCall and troop of second dragoons under Lieut. Pleasanton, in all two hundred and twenty men, were ordered to move forward into the chaparral, to feel the enemy and ascertain his position.

Captain Smith moved on the right of the road, while Captain McCall advanced on the left with his detachment of artillery and infantry. Captain Walker with his company and a small detachment of mounted men was ordered to examine the road in front, and Lieut. Pleasanton with his dragoons marched in rear of the columns of infantry. Having followed the trail of the enemy about two and a half miles, through the chaparral, a prisoner was taken, and one of the enemy killed by Captain Walker's men.

Having crossed a prairie and examined the opposite side, Captain Walker reported the road clear; when desiring to obtain definite information as to the position of the enemy, Captain McCall pushed him forward into the chaparral, (within supporting distance,) and one or two parties of from three to six were seen in the bushes, and a mounted party was fired upon by the flankers.

On reaching the open ground at Resaca de la Palma, the head of Captain McCall's column received three rounds of canister shot from a masked battery, which killed one private and wounded two sergeants on the left of the road, and made his men take cover. They rallied however handsomely within forty or fifty paces. Captain McCall now brought Captain Smith's detachment to the left of the road, proposing to attack by flank movement what he supposed to be only the rear-guard of the retiring army ; and he recalled Lieut. Dobbins, who, with a few men, had deployed to the left, where he had killed one or two of the enemy who had shown himself in his front. Being now satisfied that the Mexican army was in force on his front, Captain McCall dispatched three dragoons to inform General Taylor of the fact, and then moved his command to a stronger position to await his arrival.

General Taylor, upon the receipt of this intelligence, at about three o'clock in the afternoon, immediately put his command in motion, and came up with Captain McCall about four o'clock. Captain McC. reporting the enemy in force in front, occupying a ravine which intersects the road, and is skirted by thickets of dense chaparral, General Taylor ordered Ridgley's battery, and the advance under Captain McCall, to be thrown forward on the road and into the chaparral on either side, while the fifth infantry, and one wing of the fourth, was thrown into the forest on the left, and the third, and the other wing of the fourth, on the right of the road. These corps were employed as skirmishers to cover the battery and engage the Mexican infantry.

Lieutenant Ridgley now being in front with his light-artillery, Captain Walker was sent to point him out the enemy, and his exact position. After moving very cautiously for some time, Lieut. Ridgley discovered the Mexicans in the road, about four hundred yards in front, with their artillery, which they instantly opened. Lieut. Ridgley moved rapidly to the front, about one hundred yards, and returned their fire, which was kept up very spiritedly on both sides for some time, their grape-shot passing through Lieut. Ridgley's battery in every direction. So soon as it slackened he limbered up and moved rapidly forward, never unlimbering unless seeing them in front, or perceiving from the fire of their infantry

they were on his flanks, and discharging canister frequently from several of his pieces, at a distance of not over one hundred or one hundred and fifty yards from the enemy. He had advanced in this manner for about five hundred yards, when Captain May of second dragoons, came up, under orders to charge the enemy's battery.

Captain May, during the morning, had been actively engaged in reconnoitring the chaparral in advance of the army ; and was about half a mile from the position the enemy was reported to have taken, when he was ordered to charge the enemy's batteries and drive him from his pieces, which he proceeded rapidly to execute. When Captain May reached Lieut. Ridgley, the latter discharged a volley to show the way, when May dashed gallantly on in column of fours at the head of his squadron, and was followed by Lieut. Ridgley and his command, on a gallop.

Captain May drove the enemy from his guns amidst a heavy fire, but with a loss of Lieutenant Inge, seven privates, and eighteen horses killed. Lieutenant Inge was gallantly leading his platoon when he fell ; and Lieutenants Sergeant and Story, in the front, had their horses killed under them.

Captain May charged entirely through the enemy's batteries of seven pieces. Captain Graham, accompanied by Lieutenants Winship and Pleasonton, leading the charge against the pieces on the left of the road ; and himself, accompanied by Lieutenants Inge, Sackett, and Stevens, those on the direct road, and gained the rising ground on the opposite side of the ravine. After gaining the rising ground in the rear he could rally but six men, and with these he charged the enemy's gunners, who had regained their pieces, drove them off, and took prisoner General La Vega, whom he found gallantly fighting in person at his battery.

When Lieutenant Ridgley came up to the ravine, three of the enemy's pieces of artillery were abandoned ; their infantry, however, poured into him a most galling fire, at from twenty-five to fifty paces ; and here ensued a most desperate struggle : their cavalry coming so near as to be reached by the sabre. The eighth infantry under Captain Montgomery now came up, and for a time was warmly engaged, but succeeded in securing the battery, and the regiment then charged upon the ravine and across the small

prairie amidst a sheet of fire from the front, left, and right, drove the supporting column before it, destroying the enemy in vast numbers, they having maintained a most determined and obstinate resistance until finally repulsed and driven from the field.

During this charge, the eighth infantry was joined by a part of the fifth infantry under the gallant Captain Martin Scott, who had just been engaged in a hot personal contest with the enemy, from which he was timely relieved by a part of the eighth infantry under Lieutenant Wood; Lieutenants Ruggles and Crittenden with a small command of the fifth, with the eighth infantry, all under Captain Montgomery, routed the enemy's right wing, carrying his right battery, between which and his centre batteries had been posted the celebrated *Tampico Regiment*, all of which, except some seventeen men, fell in their position, making the most gallant and determined resistance. A part of the fifth infantry—Captains Wood's and Merrill's companies—under Colonel McIntosh, charged across the enemy's position, carrying one of his centre batteries, and with the third and fourth infantry put to rout his left wing, in which gallant charge, Colonel McIntosh fell dangerously wounded. Captain Marcy of the fifth infantry, with a small command of that regiment, had turned the enemy's left flank, and taken a piece which, leaving in the rear, was removed by the enemy, but retaken by Captain Buchanan of the fourth infantry.

The light companies of the first brigade, and the third and fourth regiments of infantry, had been deployed on the right of the road, when at various points they became briskly engaged with the enemy. The fourth infantry, under command of Brevet-Major Allen, advancing, discovered that the enemy were pouring a heavy fire of grape and musketry from a small breastwork just in front, defended by one piece of artillery and about 150 infantry. Captain Buchanan was ordered to cross to the right and advance. He had in his command some thirty men of the regiment, together with Lieutenants Hays and Woods. He deployed his men upon the crest of the hill, charged, took the piece, and bore it back to a place of safety. The enemy had a breastwork in Captain Buchanan's rear, and opened a heavy fire on him; when, with about ten men, he dislodged him and drove him across the road. Lieu-

tenants Hays and Woods first reached the piece of ordnance and captured it, and were attacked in the act of bearing it away by a party of the enemy determined to regain it, which they repulsed.

The 3d infantry, commanded by Captain Morris, was also deployed in the commencement of the engagement as skirmishers on the right of the road, the left resting on the road. The regiment advanced rapidly to the front, where it became exposed to a cross fire of both armies, but upon changing position joined in the action with service to the successful result. Captain Barbour, with his command, also repulsed a party attempting to retake the piece spoken of.

The 4th regiment, after taking the battery, pushed forward until it emerged from the thicket into the main camp of the enemy, containing the head-quarters of the commanding general of the Mexican army, their ammunition, some 300 or 400 mules, saddles, and every variety of camp equipage, with the commander's official correspondence, which they captured. Lieutenant Cochrane fell at the edge of the camp whilst gallantly leading his men into it.

The artillery battalion, excepting the flank companies, had been ordered to guard the baggage-train, which was parked some distance in the rear. That battalion was now ordered to pursue the enemy, and with the 3d infantry Captain Ker's dragoons, and Captain Duncan's battery, followed him rapidly to the river, making a number of prisoners. Several of the enemy were drowned in attempting to cross the river near the town. The corps last mentioned encamped near the river—the remainder of the army on the field of battle.

The aggregate marching force under General Taylor this day was 2222. The actual number engaged with the enemy did not exceed 1700 men. The American loss was three officers and thirty-six men killed, and seventy-one wounded.

The exact force of the Mexicans is not known, but is supposed by General Taylor to have been 6000. Their loss in killed, wounded, and missing, in the two affairs, is estimated by General Taylor at 1000. Gen. Taylor remarks thus on the result of the battle :

"Our victory has been decisive. A small force has overcome immense odds of the best troops Mexico can furnish—veteran regiments perfectly equipped and appointed. Eight pieces of artillery, several colors and standards, a great number of prisoners, including fourteen officers, and a large amount of baggage and public property, have fallen into our hands.

"The causes of victory are doubtless to be found in the superior quality of our officers and men. I have already, in former reports, paid a general tribute to the admirable conduct of the troops on both days; it now becomes my duty, and I feel it to be one of great delicacy, to notice individuals." General Taylor then adverts to acts of individual gallantry, as we have also in other places.

On account of General Taylor's limited means for crossing rivers, he was not able to prosecute so complete a victory, and greatly felt the necessity of a ponton train, such as he recommended to the department a year ago. He was therefore obliged to wait for heavy mortars, with which to menace the town from the left bank, and also the accumulation of small boats. He at length made every preparation to cross the river above the town, while Lieutenant-colonel Wilson made a diversion on the side of Barita, and the order of march was given out for ten o'clock on the 17th May, from the camp near Fort Brown, when he was waited on by General Reguena, empowered by General Arista to treat for an armistice until the government should finally settle the question. General Taylor replied that an armistice was out of the question; that a month since he had proposed one to Ampudia, which was declined, and that circumstances had now changed, &c.

An answer from Arista was promised in the afternoon, but not coming, General Taylor commenced the crossing, with a view to take the town of Matamoras on the morning following. Upon landing on the other side no resistance was made, and he was soon informed from various quarters that Arista had abandoned the town with all his troops. A staff officer was immediately dispatched to the Prefect to demand a surrender, which was granted, and General Taylor marched in and took possession of the town and public property left behind.

CHAPTER XIV.

INCIDENTS OF PERSONAL VALOR, &c.

LIEUTENANT C. D. JORDAN.—In the battle of the 9th, when the 8th regiment to which he belongs was ordered to advance to support the bold charge of the dragoons, led by Captain May, Lieutenant Jordan, with his company, rushed on the enemy, compelled them to break their ranks, and fight in detached squads, which, after a brief but severe contest, were destroyed or dispersed. Lieutenant Jordan, seeing a party of five Mexicans firing on our forces, rushed upon them sword in hand, expecting that he was supported by three soldiers of the regiment. “Two or three shots were discharged at him when at the distance of only a few paces, but fortunately missed him; and at this instant he perceived he was alone, his men having met with other enemies, and his foes were prepared to receive him with the bayonet. It was no time for hesitation. He made a blow with his sword at the nearest Mexican, which wounded him severely, although it was partly parried with his musket; and at this critical moment his foot struck something, he stumbled, fell forward to the ground, and lost his sword. Before he could recover his feet he received three bayonet stabs in his body; but he threw himself on one of the Mexicans, wrenched his cutlass from his hand, when he was fired upon by another, and a buck-shot was lodged in his arm near the shoulder, and one passed through his arm. He fell upon his back, and his enemies were about to dispatch him, when Lieutenant C. Lincoln, having vanquished those previously opposed to him, hastened with others in good time to the rescue. Lieutenant Lincoln cut down one of the Mexicans, whose comrades were immediately subdued.”

LIEUTENANT BLAKE.—On the morning of the 8th, General Taylor rode down his line and surveyed his command. He wished to ascertain whether the enemy had artillery, and how much. For this purpose Captain May was ordered out with a squadron to

reconnoitre, and, if possible, draw a fire from the enemy ; but to no purpose. Lieutenant Blake of the topographical engineers now offered to go forward alone and reconnoitre. A brother officer volunteered to accompany him, and they set out together on horseback, and dashed to within *eighty yards* of the enemy's line. "Lieutenant Blake alighted from his horse and with his glass surveyed the whole line, the American army looking on with astonishment. Just then two Mexican officers rode out towards them, but they drawing their pistols, the Mexicans halted. Lieut. Blake and his companion now mounted and galloped down their line to the other end, and returned, having procured the information necessary, which was, that the enemy had two batteries, one composed of seven, and the other five pieces. They but reached their own line when the batteries opened and the work of destruction commenced.

" Lieutenant Blake was the next day killed by the accidental discharge of his own pistol. He had thrown his sword, to which his pistols were attached, to the ground, on entering his tent. One pistol was discharged, and the ball entering his thigh was taken out of his breast. He died in three hours afterwards, regretting he had not been killed the day before. He was a native of Philadelphia, a noble fellow, and an ornament to the army."

CAPTAIN ALLEN LOWD, second artillery, occupied an important position in the works opposite Matamoras during the siege. He was the senior artillery officer present. A correspondent of the Albany Argus thus speaks of Captain Lowd and the part he took :

" On the morning of the 3d of May, for six successive hours did Captain Lowd pour his fire into the enemy's batteries and into the town of Matamoras; his men working their guns till they were nigh totally exhausted, and he himself in the thickest of the fire, the enemy's balls flying round him and his men like hail—the Mexicans having concentrated their fire on his battery. His cap was blown from his head by the *wind* of a passing ball, and the guns near his person were frequently struck by the shot, which the enemy, with wonderful precision, fired through the embrasures. It is almost miraculous that neither he nor any one of his company

was injured. Officers and men were covered with the sand which the enemy's balls, striking near, ploughed from the faces of the embrasures and the edge of the parapet.

"Independent of Captain Lowd's energy and activity during the fight with the enemy, his calmness and discretion during the whole of the siege were such as to elicit the admiration of all, and to render his counsel in those long, perilous hours, of infinite value to those who sought it."

The following named officers are natives of the State of New York, and were engaged in the defence of Fort Brown, and in the actions of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma. The names will suggest the proud part the Empire State took in these affairs.

ENGAGED IN DEFENCE OF FORT BROWN.

Second Regiment Artillery—	Lieutenant A. B. Lansing.
Seventh Regiment Infantry—	Captain E. S. Hawkins.
do. do. do.	Captain D. P. Whiting.
do. do. do.	Lieutenant J. C. Henshaw.
do. do. do.	Lieutenant F. Gardner.
do. do. do.	Lieutenant H. B. Clitz.
do. do. do.	Lieutenant W. K. Van Bokkelen.

PRESENT IN THE ACTIONS OF 8TH AND 9TH MAY.

General Staff—	Captain W. W. S. Bliss, Assistant Adjutant-general.
Medical Staff—	Dr. M. Mills.
First Regiment Artillery—	Lieutenant J. S. Hatheway.
Second Regiment Artillery—	Captain J. Duncan, commanding company Horse Artillery.
do. do. do.	Lieutenant L. Chase.
do. do. do.	Lieutenant J. J. Peck.
Third Regiment Artillery—	Lieutenant W. H. Churchill.
Fourth Regiment Artillery—	Brevet Major W. W. Morris.
do. do. do.	Lieutenant C. Benjamin.
Second Regiment Dragoons—	Lieutenant F. Hamilton.
do. do. do.	Lieutenant O. F. Winship.
do. do. do.	Lieutenant D. B. Sacket.
Third Regiment Infantry—	Captain L. N. Morris.
do. do. do.	Captain H. Bambridge.
do. do. do.	Captain G. P. Field.
do. do. do.	Lieutenant W. S. Henry.
Fourth Regiment Infantry—	Captain P. Morrison.
do. do. do.	Captain Gouverneur Morris.
Fifth Regiment Infantry—	Lieutenant M. Rosecrants.
Eighth Regiment Infantry—	Brevet Lieutenant-colonel Belknap.
do. do. do.	Captain H. McKavett.
do. do. do.	Captain J. V. Bomford.
do. do. do.	Lieutenant J. V. D. Reeve.
do. do. do.	Lieutenant C. R. Gates.
do. do. do.	Lieutenant C. F. Morris.

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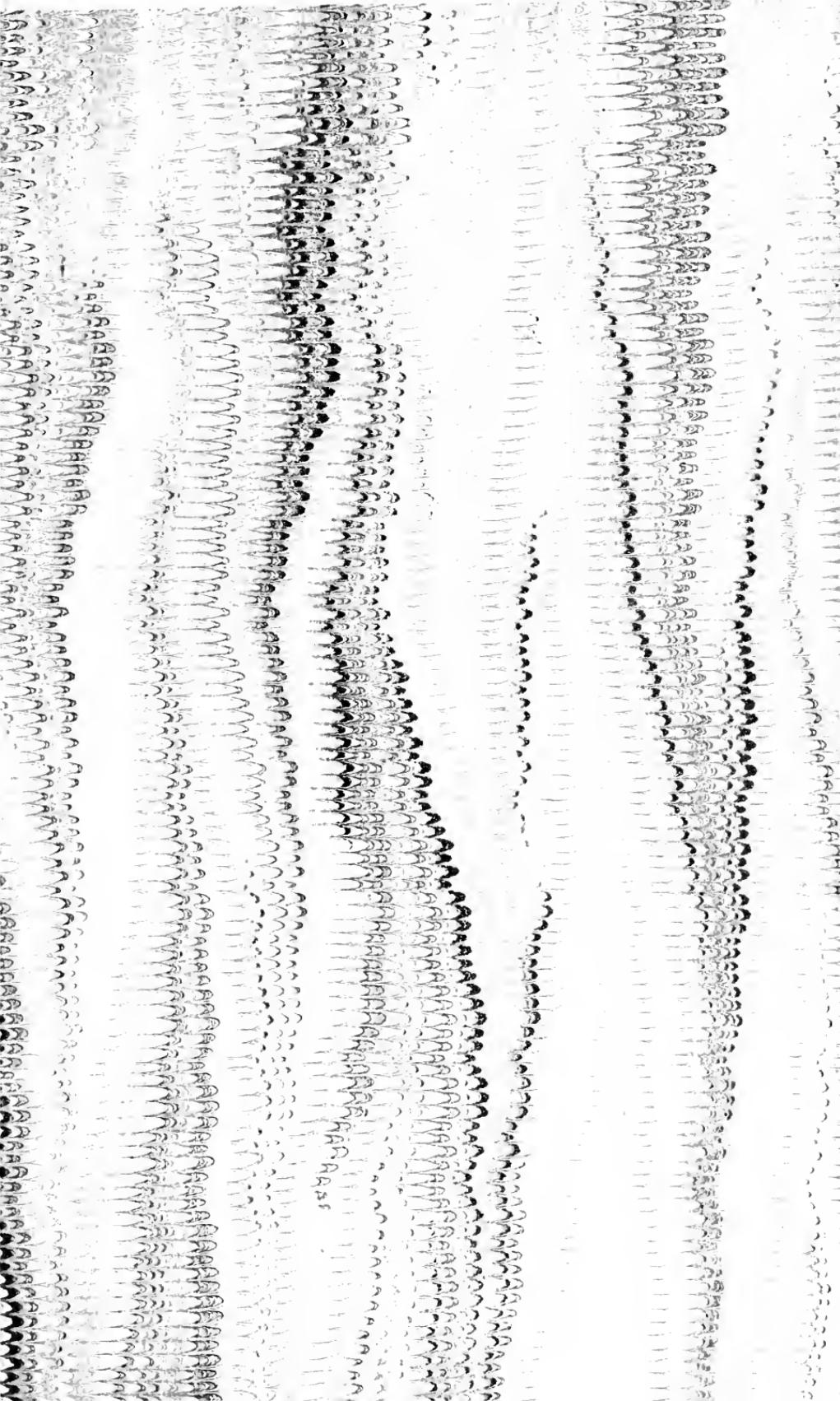
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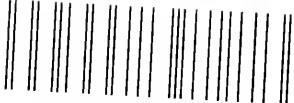




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